هكذا من الاصل

Monday April 20 1998

Abu Dhabi D 8.50 Albania US$ 2 Andorra FF 10 Austria AS 30 Bahrain BD 0.85 Belgium BF 70 Bulgaria LV 580 Canada C$ 3.85 Croatia KN 12.50 Cyprus CE 1.00 Czech Republic KC56 Denmark DK 17 Dubai D 8.50 Egypt EE 6.50 Estonia K 30 Finland FM 15 France FF 12 Germany DM 3.80 Greece D 500 Hong Kong HK$ 25 Hungary F 260 Iceland IK 185 Israel NIS 11.50 Italy L 3,500 Jordan JD 1.25 Kenya KSH 150 Kuwait KD 0.50 Latvia US$ 2 Lebanon LL 3000 Luxembourg LF 65 Madeira E 270 Malta ML 0.50 Morocco D 25 Netherlands G 4.25 Norway NK 16 Oman OR 1.00 Pakistan R 80 Poland Z 6.90 Portugal E 240 Qatar QR 8.50 Russia US$ 2.75 Saudi Arabia R 10 Slovakia SK 65 Slovenia SLT 290 Spain P 250 Sweden SK 17 Switzerland SF 3.50 Thailand B 80 Turkey TL 170,000 Ukraine US$ 3.50 USA US$ 3.00

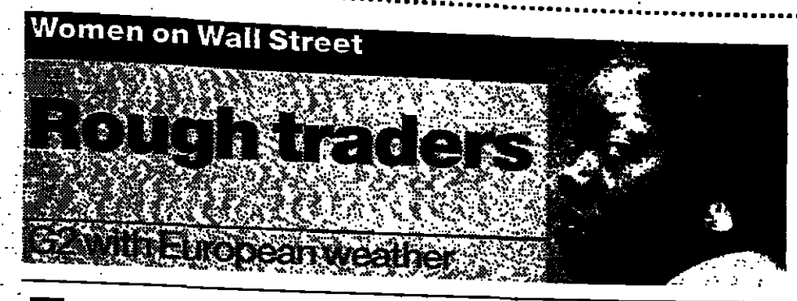
The Guardian

INTERNATIONAL

NEWSPAPER OF THE YEAR

Printed in London, Manchester, Frankfurt and Roubaix

Women on Wall Street



Rough traders

G2 with European weather

Profile: Earl Spencer

The sinner who longs to be a saint

G2 page 8

Media

American TV's quest for a new Seinfeld

G2 pages 12-13

Israel catches mood of Blair push for peace

Lucy Ward and David Sharrock in Jerusalem

ISRAEL's prime minister Binyamin Netanyahu last night set himself a four week deadline to revive the Middle East peace process, telling Tony Blair he would "go anywhere ... and possibly to London" if a breakthrough could be achieved.

Speaking after two hours of talks in Jerusalem, the two leaders struck a guardedly upbeat note, suggesting that the Prime Minister had brought with him something of the spirit of the historic Irish agreement he brokered in Belfast nine days ago.

However, the optimism expressed by Mr Netanyahu was strikingly at odds with the gloomier message which Arab leaders in Egypt and Saudi Arabia had given Mr Blair earlier in his five-day tour of the region.

Mr Netanyahu's offer is believed to have been supported by Washington, which is desperate to restart the stalled peace process without further delay. The talks offer, recalling the 1991 Madrid conference which set the Middle East peace ball rolling, would include Palestinians, Israelis and the United States with Mr Blair as host if held in London.

While British and Israeli officials have played down expectations of an imminent breakthrough, Mr Blair's arrival marks the beginning of an intensive two weeks of negotiations to finalise a US-designed package which the White House hopes will lead to a resumption of the talks.

The American plan involves Israel returning another 13 per cent of the West Bank occupied territories to the Palestinians over a period of three months, in return for a crackdown on Islamic militants. Mr Netanyahu has reportedly insisted to Washington that ceding any more than 9 per cent of the West Bank would endanger Israel's security.

'I'm prepared to go anywhere, any time to try and advance the process'

Binyamin Netanyahu

Mr Blair said last night there were "enormous possibilities" in Mr Netanyahu's idea. "I believe that the American proposals do provide a constructive way forward, and I think if we can have good negotiations then there is a chance that we can get the type of agreement that can give people peace with security for the long term."

He stressed that the basis of any discussions would be not a British or European Union initiative, but the US proposals. He would be "very happy" to host the talks in London if that was what the main participants wanted.

Mr Blair sounded a note of caution, however: "This is far too early to talk of breakthrough but I think, if people want a breakthrough, this is a first step. If this willingness exists, progress can be made."

Mr Netanyahu's offer was tempered by a familiar warning. "I want to make it clear that I am prepared to go anywhere, any time, and specifically in the next month to any location and possibly to London, to try and advance the process," he said.

The US proposals "provide a framework for discussions on how to move the process forward. I think it is no secret to you that our number one consideration is security, and on this we cannot and we must not yield.

"But I believe that with goodwill on all sides it is possible to advance negotiations and to move on ... to open up a breakthrough and what I hope will be a brighter future for Palestinians and Israelis and our other neighbours too."

Today Mr Blair will meet the Palestinian leader, Yasser Arafat, in the fully Palestinian-controlled Gaza Strip, as the US defence secretary, William Cohen, arrives in Tel Aviv, reportedly carrying with him security guarantees to Israel in the event of a second-phase withdrawal.

Mr Blair's meeting with Mr Arafat is expected to end with the signing of a joint European Union-Palestinian agreement for co-operation on security, including counter-terrorism and intelligence exchange. It would also give the EU a role in evaluating the Palestinian Authority's "discharge of its security obligations to combat terrorism".

Mr Blair may also say some words about Britain's dishonouring of agreements with the Palestinians made before the establishment of the Jewish state.

Akram Haniyeh, editor of the al-Ayyam daily newspaper and an Arafat aide, yesterday wrote: "The 50th anniversary of the Palestinian people's tragedy, for which Britain shares a good deal of the responsibility, is a good opportunity for Tony Blair to apologise to the Palestinian people in the name of his country for the tragedies which the British policies caused us."

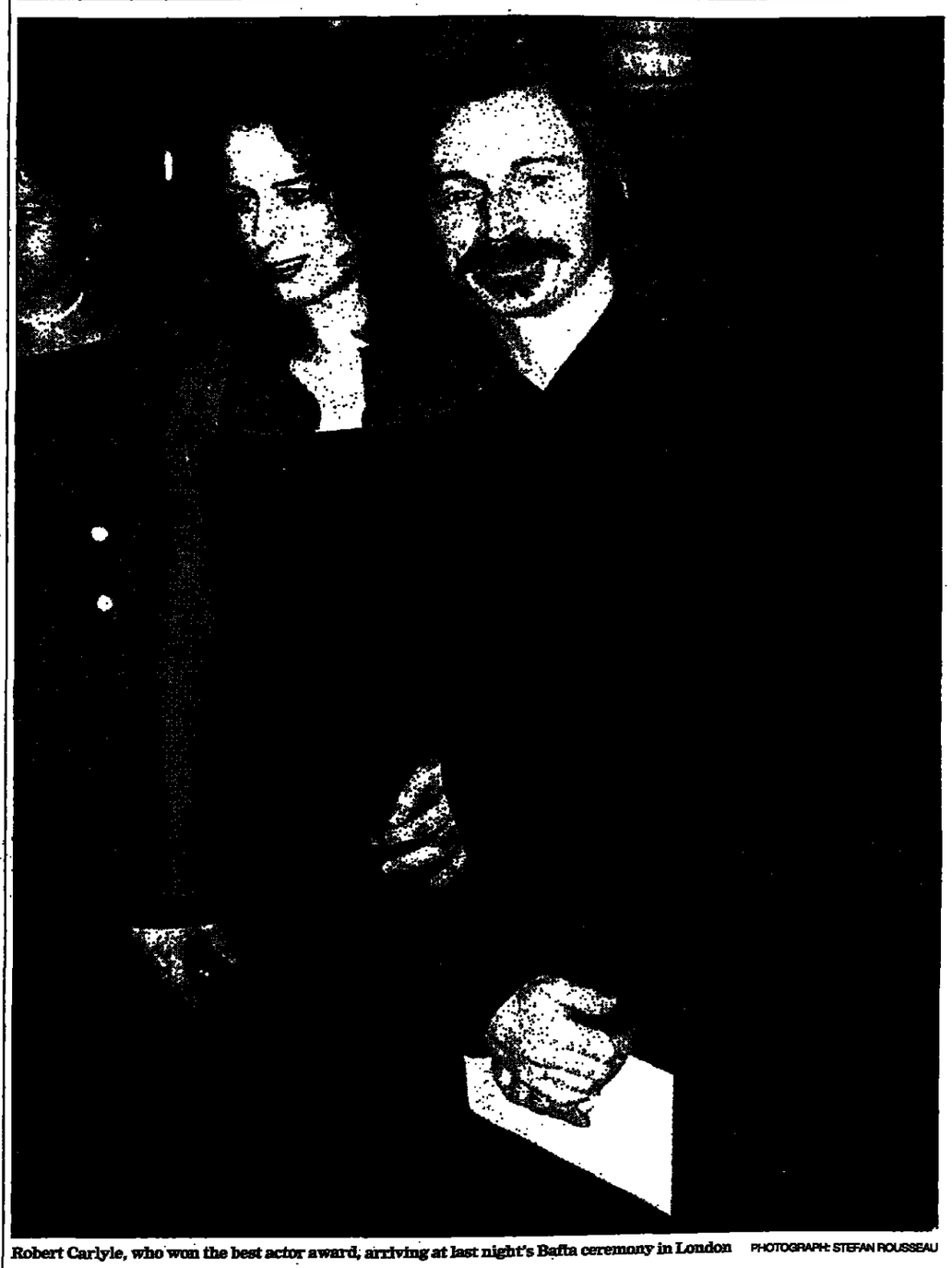
The killing of a Jewish settler by a Bedouin shepherd yesterday in the West Bank underlined the bitterness of the region's land dispute. During an argument near the Jewish settlement of Ma'on, south of Hebron, the shepherd grabbed a settler's gun and opened fire, seriously injuring another settler. One Bedouin man was hospitalised with a gunshot wound after a settler fired back.

Mr Blair was careful not to repeat the mistakes made recently by the Foreign Secretary, Robin Cook, and his first appointment in Israel was a visit to the Yad Vashem holocaust museum, where he reignited the eternal flame in the Hall of Remembrance before offering a moving tribute to the 6 million Jews killed in the second world war.

In a sentiment loaded with significance as he prepared to meet Mr Netanyahu, and with his voice breaking with emotion, Mr Blair said: "Having realised the depth of evil to which humanity can sink, now let us hope that in the future we can show the heights to which humanity can rise."

Teenage doubt, page 6; Susannah York, page 8

Carlyle outstrips rivals



Robert Carlyle, who won the best actor award, arriving at last night's Bafta ceremony in London PHOTOGRAPH: STEFAN ROUSSEAU

Full Monty sinks Titanic hopes in Bafta awards

Dan Glaister
Arts Correspondent

AFTER sweeping the Oscars, Titanic was sunk at the British equivalent, the Bafta awards, last night. Despite 10 nominations, James Cameron's blockbuster failed to pick up a single award.

The night's biggest winner was The Full Monty, with four awards, including best film.

At a star-studded ceremony at a central London hotel, Full Monty producer Uberto Pasolini accepted the award for best film from veteran actor Michael Caine.

The Full Monty, which won only one Oscar, also won the award for best actor for Robert Carlyle, best supporting actor for Tom Wilkinson, and the audience award for best film.

Following the disappointment of the Oscars, when four British actresses were nominated for an award which eventually went to the American Helen Hunt, Dame Judi Dench won the best actress Bafta for her performance as Queen Victoria in Mrs Brown.

The surprise winner was Gary Oldman's semi-autobiographical directorial debut, Nil By Mouth, which picked up best British film. Oldman also took the award for best original screenplay.

The David Lean award for best direction went to Baz Luhrmann for his modern day adaptation of William Shakespeare's Romeo and Juliet. The film also won the award for achievement in film music, and writers Luhrmann and Craig Pearce took the Bafta for best adapted screenplay.

American Sigourney Weaver took the best supporting actress Bafta for her performance in The Ice Storm.

LA Confidential, which received the most nominations, 12, managed only two awards: for best editing and best sound.

An emotional Sean Connery received the Fellowship of the British Academy from Princess Anne, Bafta patron. Connery said: "They say that it's better to

turn to page 2, column 4

5 facts about chris and norma

1 chris is 20, norma is 52

2 norma had been married seven years when chris was born

3 they met on the dance floor at bustle's and it was love at first sight

4 norma left her husband a few days later to move in with her new lover

5 chris and norma plan to get married and have a surrogate child later this year

FAMILY CONFIDENTIAL tonight 8pm on 5

PEOPLE LIFE NEWS

Linda McCartney loses fight for life

John Ezard and Christina Campbell

LINDA McCartney, admired and gifted partner in the most stable of the ex-Beatles' marriages, has died of cancer, it was revealed last night.

She died on Friday — with her husband Paul at her bedside — at the couple's home in Santa Barbara on Friday. She was 56. It was the end of a struggle against breast cancer which won her worldwide respect and sympathy when it was revealed three years ago.

Only two days before, she and Paul had been enjoying one of their most cherished pastimes, horse-riding. "The blessing was that the end came quickly and she didn't suffer," a spokesman for the McCartney family said.

A statement from her husband's office last night said Linda's cancer had spread to her liver after she had received treatment which seemed to have worked well. Its growth was only discovered last month.

Paul and Linda — who would have celebrated their 30th wedding anniversary next year — had three children, Mary, Stella and James. Paul also had a stepdaughter, Heather.

Linda McCartney ... long battle against cancer

Their spokesman, Geoff Baker, said that the McCartney family were very close and the couple had only once spent a night apart in their 29 years together.

McCartney, who was knighted last year, asked those moved by her death to give money to cancer research or animal welfare charities, or to become vegetarian, instead of sending flowers.

Linda McCartney set up a vegetarian food business and took on the meat and livestock industry over animal welfare issues.

Mr Baker said: "Because Linda was a private person, many people did not know the many sides of her.

"Not only was she a great and natural photographer and a brave campaigner for animal rights who single-handedly made vegetarianism a mainstream diet, she was also an incredible mother and a very loving friend to all who were privileged to know her.

"Linda was not only kind and loving, she was also courageous and pioneering and made stand after stand for those not as strong as herself.

"For us, her friends, the brightest light has left our lives but she has left us a shining inspiration."

Last night Hunter Davies, author of the authorised Beatles biography, said: "Linda proved brilliant for him, a rock and a steady person."

He credited Linda with the McCartneys' decision to send their children to comprehensive schools and with their public commitment to vegetarianism. He was also critical of those who ridiculed Linda's musical abilities when she showed up on stage with her husband.

Mr Davies said: "Her being part of the group, even though she wasn't exactly gifted, was something he decided to do. He knew people were going to rubbish her but he decided to do it."

He had met Linda for the first time in 1968 when he and his wife, novelist Margaret Forster, were living in Portugal.

"Paul came to visit us with Linda, who we'd never heard of — six months earlier, when we left London, his girlfriend was Jane Asher," he said.

"We thought she was just a fan, she was a photographer who'd met Paul doing photographs, and it was only later that we realised there was much more to it."

Mr Davies said he believed the couple had fallen in love during their stay in Portugal and that their eldest daughter had been conceived then.

Fierce creatures, G2, page 4

Britain 2
World News 6
Finance 6
Sport 16
Obituaries 10
Comment 8; Crossword 11
G2
Quick Crossword 15
TV, Radio and Weather 16

17
9 770261 307316

I'll help Paisley, MP tells Trimble

Ewen MacAskill in Belfast and John Mullin in Dublin

ULSTER Unionist leader David Trimble faces the loss of at least one of his MPs as he fights this week to heal the deep rift in his parliamentary party over the Northern Ireland political settlement.

The embarrassment of his disciplinary problems with his troublesome MPs contrasts with the resounding victory he achieved on Saturday when the party's ruling council voted by 72 per cent in favour of the deal.

It marked a historic turning point for the party, which is remodelling itself and is discarding much of its old "No surrender" baggage. The vote boosted the chances of a "yes" vote in the May 22 referendum on the deal.

Sinn Fein, at its annual conference in Dublin, delayed a decision on the settlement until a special conference next month, a sign of the difficulties the party faces with its own dissidents.

The Sinn Fein president, Gerry Adams, signalled the party intended to acquiese to the deal and put up candidates for the new Northern Ireland Assembly, a move that will require a change to the party constitution and will enrage traditional republicans.

One of the Ulster Unionist rebels, Willie Thompson, the MP for West Tyrone, last night insisted he will defy Mr Trimble and campaign with the Rev Ian Paisley, leader of the rival Democratic Unionist Party, against the settlement. He did not see why people found the prospect of sharing a platform with Mr Paisley "horrible".

In an extraordinary move, he gave an ultimatum to his constituency association to either back or sack him. Early indications were that Mr Thompson has taken an unnecessary gamble, with the constituency association chairman saying it was impossible to predict.

"If I lose the support of the constituency association, I would cease to be an Ulster Unionist MP but it does not mean I would cease to be a Member of Parliament," said Mr Thompson.

Others among the 10 Ulster Unionist MPs are also threatening to defy the leadership line.

Mr Trimble, who flies to London today for a Commons statement by the Northern Ireland Secretary, Mo Mowlam, has not met his MPs together since the settlement was agreed. A senior party source said last night: "We are prepared to kiss goodbye to Thompson but we want to keep the others aboard."

Mr Trimble will look to Tony Blair, who has three times in the past week come to his aid, for further help in persuading his MPs to accept the deal. Mr Blair, soon after returning from the Middle East, will announce details of the independent inquiry into reform of the Royal Ulster Constabulary.

The inquiry will be similar to a Royal Commission, the kind of framework Mr Trimble had been pushing for and an important concession for him to present to his MPs.

Before Mr Trimble leaves Belfast today he will meet senior party officials to discuss strategy for the referendum and the subsequent Northern Ireland Assembly elections. Interviewed yesterday on the Jonathan Dimbleby programme on LWT, he set an ambitious target for a "yes" vote: "Anything below 60 (per cent), we'd be in difficulties. If you get a yes vote which is above 70, then you're fine, but I think that if you get a yes vote between those two then there would be an element of judgment involved in it."

A poll in Ireland's Sunday Independent yesterday had support for the agreement running at 80 per cent.

Sinn Fein's leadership will require a two-thirds majority at the special conference to change the party's constitution to enable it to take seats in the Assembly. There was some nervousness but the betting is that it will succeed.

Mr Adams said: "A defensive strategy will not achieve our ends. It will emasculate the struggle. We need to take the initiative and to take the struggle to our opponents in every way. This will mean taking risks."

Adams delay follows Trimble victory, page 4; Leader comment, page 9

Man of the media people . . . Tim Allan plays a key role in Downing Street communications and BSkyB expects similar successes PHOTOGRAPH: MARTIN ARGLES

'Allan sold Labour to the middle class. Now he's got to sell the same people BSkyB'

Media analyst

Blair's aide sparks new Murdoch row

MPs demand 'revolving door' inquiry as No 10 voice takes £100,000 media job at BSkyB

Anne Perkins
Political Correspondent

ONE of Tony Blair's closest advisers last night reopened the row concerning the Prime Minister's links with Rupert Murdoch when he confirmed that he was taking up a new job as director of corporate communications at BSkyB.

Tim Allan has worked for Mr Blair since 1992, and has been deputy to Alastair Campbell, the Prime Minister's press secretary, since the election.

Yesterday's announcement sparked immediate demands from MPs for a Cabinet Office investigation into 'revolving door' syndrome — the term for high-level government-to-industry job moves.

One senior Labour backbencher condemned the switch. "It's the classic purchasing of influence, isn't it?" he said.

And a Tory MP, Tim Collins, challenged Mr Blair to go to the Commons and answer questions on "his dealings with the Murdoch empire".

Rhodri Morgan, Labour MP for Cardiff West and chairman of the committee already investigating the row following accusations that Mr Blair lobbied the Italian prime minister on Mr Murdoch's behalf, warned that although Mr Allan was only a temporary civil servant, the move could breach strict rules governing job moves from public to private sector.

"The issue is whether Cabinet Office approval is required. There is a case for saying the *cordon sanitaire* rules should be applied to a temporary civil servant especially where they've been working in Downing Street," he said.

Two years ago, after recommendations from the Nolan committee on standards in public life, temporary civil servants like ministerial special advisers who are political appointees, were made subject to the same restrictions covering senior civil servants. They must wait three months before taking up a post in the private sector. But at the time there was no "political" team of press spokesmen at Downing Street and it is not clear whether Mr Allan is covered by the restrictions.

The redrafted regulations state that "when a former Crown servant takes up an outside appointment there should be no cause for any suspicion of impropriety".

Mark Booth, BSkyB's chief executive, welcomed Mr Allan's decision to join the company, but refused to comment on reports that he will earn £100,000 a year — £60,000 more than his current salary. He said: "Tim is very bright, with an exceptional background. He had a number of opportunities open to him in business, but these are very exciting times at BSkyB, with the digital revolution imminent, and his talents will be invaluable."

His first job will be to handle the launch of BSkyB's digital satellite transmissions, scheduled for this summer. But the real prize Mr Murdoch is seeking is in digital terrestrial broadcasting, to be launched next year. Media analysts see it as BSkyB's opportunity to reach into the affluent middle classes who have so far resisted the allure of satellite television.

"Tim Allan was part of the team which sold Labour to the middle class. Now he's got to sell the same people BSkyB," one analyst said last night.

Mr Allan is the second senior Labour figure to resign in the past month: David Hill, the party's long-serving Chief Media Officer, is to join Bell Pottinger, the Whitehall lobbyists run by Sir Tim Bell, Mrs Thatcher's former advertising man.

Mr Allan informed his employers some months ago that he would leave on the first anniversary of Labour's election victory, and confirmed that he would take the BSkyB job before Mr Blair left for the Middle East at the end of last week.

One old party hand dismissed his departure as unsurprising. "He was hardly a rabid socialist, was he?" he sniffed — a charge Mr Allan admits, while pointing out that he has been a party member for 11 years.

But other insiders praised him for his quick mind and his ability to think strategically. One friend pointed out that he had always intended to pursue a business career.

Mr Allan declined to comment on his appointment.

Looking for life in the ocean wave

Review

Eddie Gibb

Passing Places
Traverse Theatre, Edinburgh

STEPHEN Greenhorn's play has been described as a road movie for the stage, which provides both an accurate description of the piece and a flavour of its absurdist humour.

"Choose your influences," says a Canadian geologist, after emerging from a west Highland ceilidh where the band are playing Johnny Cash numbers, shortly before a French existentialist starts tinkering with an Eastern European car. Melting-pot, or what? The point is that Scotland is not some kind monoculture which can be tartan gift-wrapped and sold around the world. People try, of course, but it is not the sum total of the nation's culture.

Greenhorn has indeed chosen his influences, which are so many and varied that you quickly lose count. This is the real test of a work which is far more than a sum of its parts, even if some are more readily identifiable than others.

Given the obvious movie influences, however, it seems worth having a stab at describing Passing Places in cinematic terms. Imagine Bill Forsyth assembling the Trainspotting crew and taking them on a trip to the corner of north-east Scotland where he filmed Local Hero, while the cast of the cult surf movie, Big Wednesday, ride the waves.

Surfing, you're wondering? In Scotland? Well, yes, but in Passing Places the quest for the perfect wave serves as a metaphor for that eternal search for self-knowledge. This is not a new idea, but welding it to a story about unlikely Lanarkshire lads on the lam, with a stolen surf board strapped to the roof of a "borrowed" Lada, provides an original twist.

The road movie has a power because the Americans have always been good at tapping into the myths of their country. With Passing Places — first performed at the Traverse last year and after some fine-tuning heading out on tour — Greenhorn makes a pretty successful stab at doing the same for Scotland.

Until April 25, then on tour.

Full Monty sinks Titanic hopes in Bafta awards

Sean Connery, who received the academy's fellowship

continued from page 1

give than to receive, but tonight I'm not too sure."

The 50th awards from the British Academy for film and television arts were attended by a plethora of stars from Britain and Hollywood. They ranged from Elizabeth Hurley who presented the first award of the evening to Oldman, to French actress Juliette Binoche. Spanish opera singer Placido Domingo presented the award for best music while Hollywood dignitaries such as Julia Roberts and Robert Duvall were also present to hand out awards.

The stars of The Full Monty, after receiving the audience awards for most popular film, denied they had received any extra payment for their work in the film. The Full Monty, which was made for £3 million, has taken over £100 million. Hugo Speer, one of the stars of the film, said: "I have just asked the producer Uberto Passolini about that but we are still waiting for something."

Asked about a sequel to The Full Monty being made, the cast were sceptical. "I don't really like the idea," said Speer. "What would they call it? The Fuller Monty? The Half Monty?"

American actress Julia Roberts, who presented an award

The winners

- ☐ The Academy fellowship: Sean Connery
- ☐ Outstanding British contribution: Michael Roberts
- ☐ The Alexander Korda award for outstanding British film of the year: Nil by Mouth
- ☐ Best film: The Full Monty
- ☐ Best direction: Baz Luhrmann for William Shakespeare's Romeo and Juliet
- ☐ Best original screenplay: Nil by Mouth, Gary Oldman
- ☐ Best adapted screenplay: William Shakespeare's Romeo and Juliet, Craig Pearce and Baz Luhrmann
- ☐ Best leading actress: Dame Judi Dench for Mrs Brown
- ☐ Best leading actor: Robert Carlyle for The Full Monty
- ☐ Best supporting actor: Tom Wilkinson, The Full Monty
- ☐ Best foreign language film: L'Appartement
- ☐ Best music: William Shakespeare's Romeo and Juliet
- ☐ Best cinematography: The Wings of the Dove
- ☐ Best production design: William Shakespeare's Romeo and Juliet

Introducing training bikes

215
stations have now been regenerated by
RAILTRACK
The heart of the railway

هكذا من الاصل

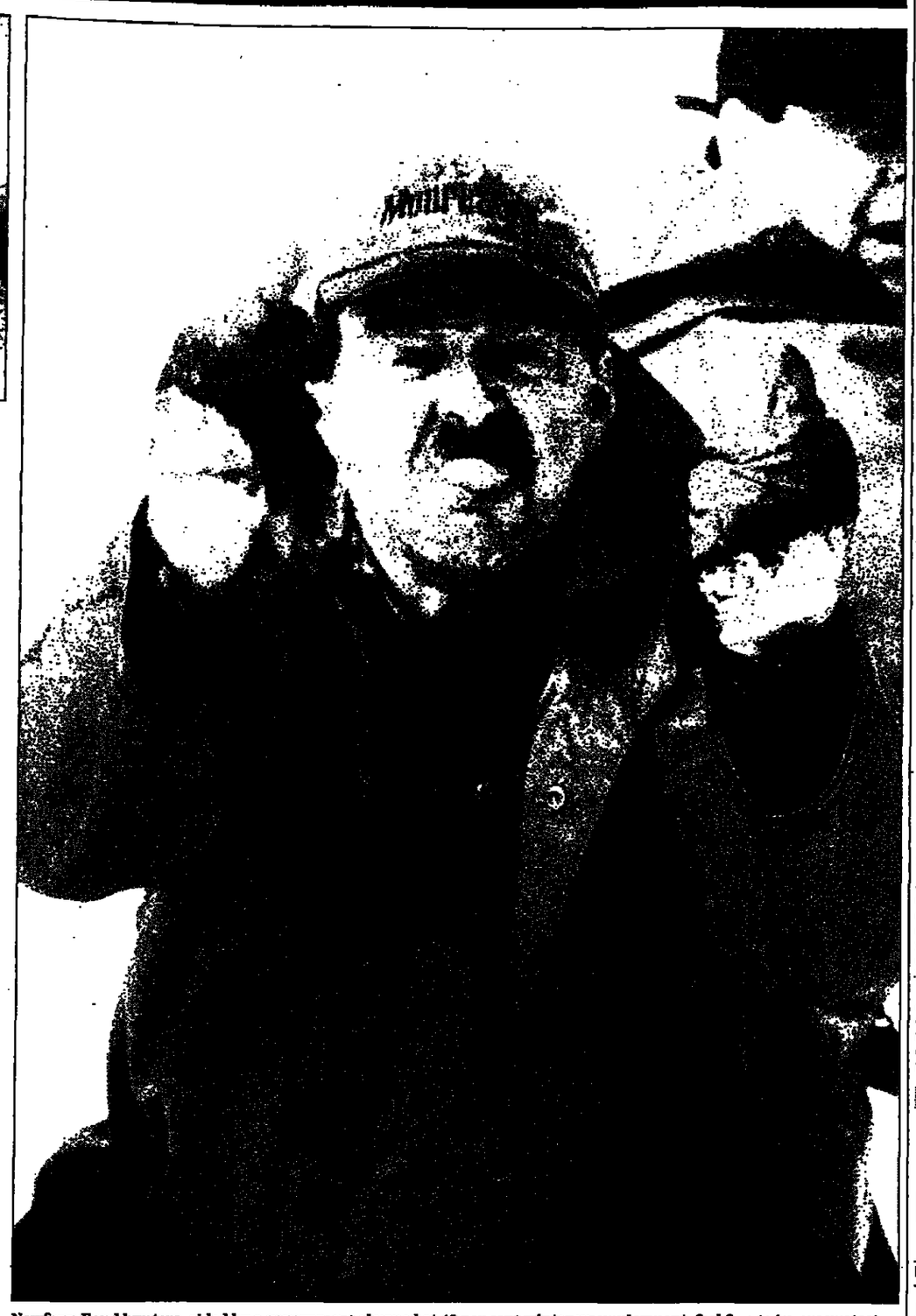
هكذا من الاصل

New life for bloody trade

The pelt from this baby seal will earn its killer $20

Snub to the world as seal cull booms

Outrage at the slaughter of seal pups led to a slump in the industry 20 years ago. But 275,000 will die this year as Canada's government backs the hunt, reports **James Gerstenzang** *in Cap-aux-Meules*



Newfoundland hunters, aided by a government alarmed at 40 per cent winter unemployment, feel free to ignore protests

ONCE again the blood is on the ice. Two decades ago, images of the baby harp seal tugged at the world's heartstrings, their big black eyes peering from pillows of dewy white fur. Then came pictures of their skulls crushed by clubs and their pelts yanked from bloody carcasses.

Public outcry prompted the Canadian government to ban sales of the youngest pups, and the United States and Europe to ban imported pelts. The market collapsed and the yearly slaughter plummeted from 230,000 seals to 20,000.

"The sense was, without markets, the hunt would die out over time," said A. J. Cady of the International Fund for Animal Welfare.

But not here on the Iles-de-la-Madeleine, in the Gulf of St Lawrence, or along the Atlantic coast of Newfoundland.

The Canadian government, alarmed at the economic impact of depleted fisheries on its maritime provinces, is now backing sealers with subsidies and even coastguard escorts to hard-to-reach ice floes.

Seals must be old enough to have at least some of their white fur turn dark — 18 days or so — before they can be killed. But that restriction is barely more than a nod to animal rights groups.

The government, in fact, has been helping sealers build markets for pelts in Asia, and for seal meat at home. And for two years it has said that up to 275,000 — the highest number in 30 years — can be killed per season.

Environmentalists and animal rights groups are rallying again, but have been unable to muster enough international outrage to counter strengthened local interests in communities where winter unemployment reaches 40 per cent.

"People argue, Why don't they do something else?" said Roger Simon, area manager for the federal fisheries department. "What else?"

The procedure for turning a three-week-old pup into $20 in the hunter's pocket works like this:

Crush the skull with a club to render the animal unconscious. Roll the pup on to its back. From the chin, slice downward with a razor-sharp knife, cutting the brachial arteries leading to the flippers. This way the animal will bleed to death very quickly. Then peel the fur, skin and blubber from the carcass, and cut off the flippers.

"Some sealers have been timed in 28 seconds," said David Lavigne, professor of zoology at the University of Guelph in Ontario.

Seal hunter Ghislain Cyr has tried other jobs. "I can do lots of things. Cabinet maker, boat builder, build houses. I always come back to the sea. It's a life you can't find anywhere else. It's freedom."

Fishing is the primary source of income for the 14,000 residents of the atoll-like islands here. Eight generations of Mr Cyr's family have lived on the islands. His grandfather and father were both sealers.

While Mr Cyr and his fellow hunters say the seal hunt provides crucial income, Clive Southey, an economist at the university says its economic contribution to the region is insignificant. When government subsidies and other lesser factors are taken from the equation, he says, the hunt adds about 0.06 percent to Newfoundland's income, and provides no more than 120 full-time jobs.

In 1971, 230,966 seals were killed, according to the International Fund for Animal Welfare. The "harvest" fell sharply in 1983, when the European Union banned the import of baby seal pelts. It reached a low of 19,035 in 1985, and then climbed slowly to no more than 67,500 a year over the next 10 years.

The turnaround began in 1996. The Grand Banks cod fishery had been closed for four years, the Canadian government offered $1.5 million in subsidies for seal meat and the sealers' association aggressively sought expanded markets. Last year, 261,036 seals were killed. The government estimates that, to keep the herd at 4.6 million, up to 286,000 harp seals can be killed each year.

Previously, it was the white coats — the youngest pups with the most valuable pelts — that drew the hunters. Now, regulations force hunters to wait until seals have begun to moult, showing a few specks of black skin and fur.

Regulations specify the size of the club, which resembles a baseball bat, and the "hakapik", a curved iron spike and blunt hammer-like projection mounted on a wooden pole, that can crush the skull and hook the carcass in nearly one motion.

The pups, some less than a month old, most no more than four months, last year made up nearly 85 per cent of the kill. Their pelts — often destined for clothing plants in Asia — can bring from $20 to $35, more than the mottled pelt of an adult.

For five years, Tina Fagan, executive director of the sealers association, has been working to build a market for seal products in Canada and Asia. Sales in the US have been banned since 1972.

"Five years ago, all we had were fur coats," she says. Now "we have prime cuts, we have burgers. Very shortly we'll have a salami and pepperoni in the marketplace." — *Los Angeles Times.*

Flipper pies on the menu

PATRICK Mathey comes out of the kitchen of his restaurant, Chez Patrick in Cap-aux-Meules. The mussels in wine sauce are superb. So too, he offers, is the "loup-marin a la canneberge" — seal in a brown sauce with cranberries.

"I've eaten giraffe, crocodile, antelope. The seal is the best. Ah, oui," he says.

A few miles up the road, Le P'tite Baie offers vegetable soup, choice of scallops, cod in lobster sauce, *chicken curry or seal bourguignon*, with dessert and coffee. Other choices include grilled seal tournedos in a dijonaise sauce, and seal pâté in a torte.

"People ask for seal," says Rejeanne Langford, the waitress and owner, "because it is the freshest item on the menu." On menus it is known as "loup-marin", literally sea-wolf.

In Newfoundland, the flipper that propels the seal on its long dives is a delicacy. It is soaked and boiled to separate the meat from the skin and bones, then baked into a pastry shell with vegetables.

"That is good, the flipper pie," said Jacque Robichaud, the director-general of the department of fisheries and oceans in Ottawa. "It's a big dish."

In image or in the flesh, the islands are determined to make money from the seal. In the gift shop of the Château Madelinot, on the Iles-de-la-Madeleine in the middle of the Gulf of St Lawrence, the shelves are a cornucopia of sealdom: Picture books of baby harp seals. Postcards. Pins. Bookmarks. Chopsticks. T-shirts, of course. Refrigerator magnets. Each bears the famous image of dark eyes peering from a face of white fur.

Drivers face tax to help fund public transport

Keith Harper
Transport Editor

A UNIQUE attempt to redress the balance between public transport and the car is to be unveiled by the Government, which wants local authorities to tax motorists and use the money for alternative transport schemes.

Under the plan, a vital component of the Government's transport white paper, funds will be raised from congestion charges on parking dues from company car users — and from motorists entering peak holiday areas such as the Lake District and the West Country, where local councils will be encouraged to raise car park charges substantially.

Government advisers say that the scheme could raise almost £3 billion over the next 10 years.

The Deputy Prime Minister, John Prescott, and Chancellor Gordon Brown, have approved in principle the charges provided that the money is spent on "sensible" schemes.

The most likely "do-it-yourself" ideas are more frequent bus and rail services, park and ride schemes, bus and cycle lanes, and the limiting of car access to town and city centres. No scheme will be refused if local authorities can demonstrate that it is boosting public transport.

The plan represents a radical departure in the way the Government wants public transport to be financed in city areas. It is the first time that local people will be given the chance to raise capital to spend on improving their own transport facilities.

Any council wishing to participate will have to apply to Mr Prescott's Department of the Environment and Transport for a licence and for its schemes to be vetted.

Treasury officials are still concerned that the money could be wasted on "crackpot ideas". *One Treasury source* said last night: "We will not allow council officials to indulge their flights of fancy by building pedestrian lanes for ducks."

In the lead-up to legislation, the Government can expect vigorous lobbying by business interests over the proposed new "congestion charges". So far the response from industry has been encouraging, although the plan is not likely to see an immediate dramatic fall in the use of the company car.

Mr Prescott has made it clear to colleagues that his political credibility is at stake over the white paper. He hopes that he will be able to produce a plan to win over the car-dominated British public by demonstrating that it is possible to provide a more effective public transport system than those existing in many areas.

The plan conveniently allows the Government to distance itself from criticism by placing the onus on local authorities to deliver.

If it goes wrong, ministers think they will not get the blame. But since Mr Prescott will be vetting each local authority plan, he will therefore be unable to escape some responsibility.

Howell, the rainmaker, dies

Luke Harding

LORD Howell, former Labour sports minister and the man who famously made it rain during the long hot summer of 1976, has died at the age of 74.

He collapsed on Saturday night following a suspected heart attack after speaking at a charity event in Bickenhill, in the West Midlands. He died yesterday lunchtime at Solihull Hospital. "This is a sad moment for everybody. He was a fantastic man," said his son Andrew.

The former cabinet minister was widely credited with having done more than any other modern politician to transform the fortunes of British sport. He was sports minister twice — from 1964-70 and 1974-1979 — and was the only minister to have refereed at Wembley. His passion was inspired by playing football and cricket as a boy.

Lord Howell also achieved lasting but unlooked for fame as a rainmaker during the drought of 1976. Harold Wilson put him in charge of dealing with the crisis as Minister for Drought. Days later it began to rain, so much so that he became known as Minister for Floods. His reputation as a man who could work miracles was confirmed during a visit to Tashkent, which had not had rain for two years. His arrival coincided with a violent storm.

The Prime Minister, leaving Jordan on his Middle East tour, yesterday paid tribute to Lord Howell. "Denis Howell was a huge figure in the Labour Party and in previous Labour governments," he said. "I am deeply saddened by his death as will be his many friends, colleagues and admirers.

Lord Howell ... helped transform British sport

"He dedicated his life to furthering the interests of ordinary people, with whom he had a great affinity. They will remember him fondly."

Lord Hattersley, the former Labour deputy leader, yesterday described him as "a real Labour man ... a real democratic socialist of immense principle, immense conviction, immense energy".

Lord Howell stood down at the 1992 election after more than 30 years as MP for Birmingham Small Heath.

His wife Brenda and children Andrew, Michael and Katherine were at his bedside when he died.

Obituary, page 10

400MHzoooooooooooom!

DELL DIMENSION™ XPS R400 MT
- INTEL PENTIUM® II PROCESSOR 400MHZ
- INTEL 440BX AGPSET
- 64MB 100MHZ SDRAM
- 512KB INTERNAL CACHE
- 8.4GB EIDE HARD DRIVE
- STB VELOCITY NVIDIA AGP VIDEO CARD WITH 4MB SGRAM VIDEO MEMORY
- 19" COLOUR TCO 95 SVGA MONITOR (0.26 DOT PITCH, 17.9" VIEWABLE AREA)
- 3 PCI, 1 ISA, 1 PCI/ISA SHARED AND 1 AGP EXPANSION SLOTS
- DVD-ROM DRIVE AND DECODER CARD
- TURTLE BEACH MONTEGO 64 VOICE PCI SOUND CARD AND ALTEC LANSING ACS 495 SURROUND SOUND SPEAKERS
- US ROBOTICS 56KB/S MODEM AND MINI TOWER CHASSIS
- WINDOWS 95 AND MICROSOFT™ HOME ESSENTIALS™ 98*** INCL. MS WORD 97 AND MS WORKS ETC

£1,749 (£2,090.33)
INC. DELIVERY & VAT

DELL DIMENSION™ XPS R350
- SPEC AS ABOVE EXCEPT WITH INTEL PENTIUM II PROCESSOR 350MHZ, 17" COLOUR TCO 95 SVGA MONITOR (0.28 DOT PITCH, 15.9" VIEWABLE AREA) AND ALTEC LANSING ACS 295 SPEAKERS

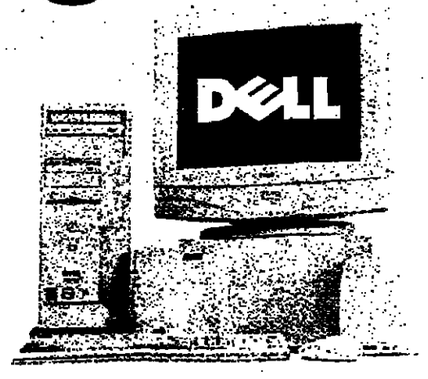
£1,479 (£1,773.08)
INC. DELIVERY & VAT

DELL DIMENSION™ XPS R350
- INTEL PENTIUM II PROCESSOR 350MHZ
- INTEL 440BX AGPSET
- 64MB 100MHZ SDRAM
- 512KB INTERNAL CACHE
- 4.3GB EIDE HARD DRIVE
- STB VELOCITY NVIDIA AGP VIDEO CARD WITH 4MB SGRAM VIDEO MEMORY
- 17" COLOUR TCO 95 SVGA MONITOR (0.28 DOT PITCH, 15.9" VIEWABLE AREA)
- 3 PCI, 1 ISA, 1 PCI/ISA SHARED AND 1 AGP EXPANSION SLOTS
- 14/32 X CD-ROM DRIVE
- YAMAHA XG SOFTWARE WAVETABLE SOUND (SPEAKERS OPTIONAL)
- MID SIZED DESKTOP CHASSIS
- WINDOWS 95 AND MICROSOFT™ HOME ESSENTIALS™ 98***

£1,199 (£1,444.08)
INC. DELIVERY & VAT

intel inside pentium II

NEW



Yet again we're fastest with the fastest* - the blisteringly fast new Intel® 350MHz and 400MHz Pentium® II Processors. And they're matched with the superfast new Intel 440BX chipset to deliver up to 20% faster performance**. So bringing improved results across the most demanding applications - now and far into the future.

So get online to the world's largest direct PC manufacturer*. Fastest.

*Source: IDC
** Source: Intel iComp index 2.0 comparing the Intel Pentium II Processor 400MHz/Intel BX Chipset and the Intel Pentium II Processor 333MHz/Intel LX Chipset.

TALK DIRECT TO THE MANUFACTURER
0870 152 4646
BETWEEN 8AM & 8PM MONDAY TO SATURDAY, 9AM TO 7PM SUNDAY
Quote ref no. 24 hours

www.dell.com/uk/buydell

DELL®

The Guardian Monday April 20 1998

Anti-climax in Dublin as republicans take a cautious approach ☐ Drama in Belfast, where leader wins acclaim for historic turn

Adams delay follows Trimble victory

Sinn Fein: Tactical wait to allow leaders time to prepare the ground

John Mullin
Ireland Correspondent

AFTER Saturday's Ulster Unionist drama in Belfast, yesterday's gathering of Northern Ireland's republicans in Dublin came as an anti-climax.

Even before Sinn Fein's 92nd *ard fheis* got under way, the party had decided to delay making its response to the Good Friday agreement until a special conference.

It was a sensible move from the party's tactically astute leadership. The leaders need time to condition the grassroots for the big policy changes ahead. But it hardly made for the most exciting of annual gatherings.

Although David Trimble's party had made its final decision away from the television cameras, the party had fought its battle in public. Such openness is not possible in a disciplined outfit like Sinn Fein. As one delegate said: "Unity is our strength, and strength is our unity."

The decisions are, of course, being made, but behind closed doors. The leaders may wrap themselves in the language of party democracy, but the role of the rank and file is to ratify the plan, and then stay on message.

The party's 30-strong *ard chomhairle*, its executive, will make a recommendation to the special conference, to be held early next month, at least two weeks before the simultaneous referendums in Northern Ireland and the Republic on May 22.

Gerry Adams, Sinn Fein president, will push for a positive response to the deal, even if the leadership may fall short of a full embrace. But the leadership does want Sinn Fein to take up its seats in the Northern Ireland assembly.

To do this, they must first change the party's constitution forbidding such a course — and that will require a two-thirds majority at the special conference.

Sinn Fein could even go as far as supporting the "Yes" campaign in Northern Ireland, while emphasising those areas of the deal which the party dislikes.

Mr Adams believed that it was possible to cherry-pick from the deal. He said: "I have always made it clear that while our goals and principles must not change, our strategic objectives, strategy and tactics must be constantly reviewed and rooted in objective reality.

"We will not be caged in, psyched out, intimidated, cajoled, patronised or bought off. We have our eye on the prize, the prize of freedom."

Mr Adams's closing remarks in Dublin last night were heavy with clues. He conceded the deal was no settlement, but said it could aid the next phase in the push for Irish unity: "It clearly can be transitional. It clearly can be the basis for advancement. But the big challenge for us is how to make these advances.

"We need to assess our attitude to the assembly in the light of its relationship with the all-Ireland institutions and the whole package. Can we use all of this to advance our political goals?"

Mr Adams will argue that the dramatic switch in policy to take seats up in a partitionist body is necessary to allow Sinn Fein to play its part in the North-South bodies. It is also poised to overtake the nationalist SDLP and would then be a key player.

There were the odd voices of dissent during discussion, but it was little more than letting off steam. Sinn Fein stands on the brink of an historic leap.

Shirt-sleeve orator: Gerry Adams after his speech to Sinn Fein in Dublin yesterday

Unionists: Vote by party to accept deal buries 'no surrender' ideology

Ewen MacAskill and John Mullin

THE muted strains of "God Save the Queen" could be heard from behind the closed doors of the Grand Ballroom of Belfast's Europa Hotel on Saturday afternoon.

About 750 members of the Ulster Unionist Party's ruling council were closing one of the most important and decisive sessions in their history. The national anthem was about the only shibboleth intact after a day in which the party shed its "No surrender" mantle and began to move towards a new, maturer Unionism.

"The dinosaurs are slowly passing away," one member said yesterday, wistfully recalling Saturday's vote. "Even a few years ago it was near impossible to get inside Glengall Street [the party headquarters] unless you were Protestant, male and middle-aged."

The Ulster Unionist leader, David Trimble, had good reason to feel smug yesterday as he fielded questions on a BBC talk show.

He emerged from the Grand Ballroom, where the ruling council backed him by 540 to 210, as the strongest leader the Unionists have had for decades. He carried 72 per cent of his party with him: any vote below 60 per cent would have signified his party was irrevocably split.

Mr Trimble will lose some die-hard members, including almost certainly the MP for Tyrone West William Thompson, aged 58, but the circle round Mr Trimble will see that as a price worth paying.

If the party is to survive the demographic change that 30 years from now could see Catholics outnumber Protestants in Northern Ireland, it has to change. The deputy leader, John Taylor, embraces what he referred to yesterday as "New Unionism". Mr Taylor, survivor of an IRA assassination attempt, said this New Unionism was "one which will appeal to people of both religious communities, because there are many Catholics in Northern Ireland who want to remain in the UK".

Fine words, but can such sentiments survive the emotions aroused each July by the marching season? At best, it can only be a long-term ambition. But the Unionist Party is capable of surprises.

Among those flooding out of the Grand Ballroom on Saturday afternoon at the end of the 5½-hour session was an emotional Patricia Campbell, who heralded it as a great day for new-look Unionism. She is a party official based in London, and a Catholic.

The 750 members of the council voted on a motion to back Mr Trimble's negotiation of the peace settlement. But they were also voting, and they knew it, on whether to transform their party from the old one associated with bigotry and opposition to Dublin to a new one prepared to reach an accommodation with their nationalist neighbours in Northern Ireland and with the Irish Republic.

At 2.40 pm, the old Unionist Party was voted away. If it had gone the other way, the peace settlement would been in tatters.

Mr Trimble, speaking afterwards, said: "If the motion had failed, I would have gone to Downing Street and said the referendum is off and I would have expected him [Tony Blair] to agree to that." The vote was that important.

Beforehand, council members had had to run an extraordinary gauntlet on the way into the Europa.

Two sets of protesters lined the entrance. They looked identical, both waving Union flags and the Red Hand of Ulster. Both were drawn mainly from the small parties linked with the loyalist paramilitaries, some being men who had been convicted of sectarian killings.

One side shouted support while the other chanted abuse. "Gerry Adams and the Pope support Trimble," one of the latter group shouted.

Inside the ballroom, Mr Trimble got a standing ovation on entry from two-thirds of those present, while the remainder slowly and grudgingly also rose to their feet. He was heckled at various points in his speech.

Opponents such as William Ross, MP for Londonderry East, and Jeffrey Donaldson, MP for Lagan Valley and heir-apparent, also spoke.

One of the 28 per cent who voted "no" expressed worry that "the Unionist Party will fracture". Some losses to Ian Paisley's Democratic Unionist Party are inevitable.

Mr Ross will defy his leader and campaign in the referendum against the setilement, but Mr Trimble, while prepared to wave goodbye to Mr Thompson, will not want to lose Mr Ross or any other dissident MPs.

Under pressure . . . David Trimble at Saturday's party meeting PHOTOGRAPH:PAUL McERLANE

Envoys try to free British family kidnapped by Yemeni tribesmen

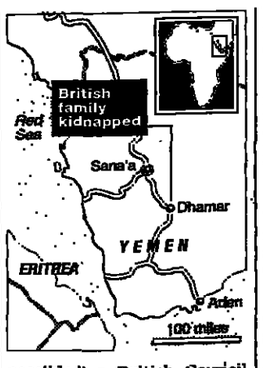
Ruaridh Nicoll

A BRITISH teacher, his wife and their 14-year-old son have been kidnapped by tribesmen in Yemen.

David Mitchell, aged 48, his wife, Caroline, and son, Ben, were travelling from the southern city of Aden to the airport at Sanaa on Friday when they were seized by Bani Dabyan tribesmen outside Dhamar, according to the Foreign Office.

Mrs Mitchell had spent Easter with her husband and was beginning the journey home to Bexhill, East Sussex, when they were snatched between noon and 2pm local time. Mr Mitchell is employed as an English teacher by the British Council.

"We are doing all we can to resolve this as quickly as possible," a British Council spokesman said. "We are working closely with the British embassy and the Yemeni government, who are offering every assistance."



Last night diplomats and Yemeni officials were making strenuous efforts to recover the family.

Vic Henderson, the British ambassador in Sanaa, is in close contact with the Yemeni minister of the interior, Hussein Arab. The governor of Sanaa, Naji Abdulla Al-Soufi, is trying to contact the tribesmen.

Kidnapping is common in Yemen. Last year 34 foreigners were kidnapped in 13 separate incidents, but all were eventually released safely.

Kidnapping is used as a tactic by tribesmen desperate to make their views heard in government. The hostages are usually treated well and given the best food and accommodation available.

"Sometimes they feel they are banging their heads against a brick wall with the authorities and so they will kidnap someone," said David Pearce, the deputy head of the British mission.

If previous incidents offer any example, the family will be driven to a remote village, where they will be held until their captors feel they have made their point.

The Yemeni government usually watches hostages through its network of informers and makes sure they are not harmed, meanwhile applying subtle pressure and hoping the cost of keeping hungry prisoners will do the rest.

The Mitchells are at a disadvantage because they were not travelling with a Yemeni driver, but Mr Mitchell has lived in the country since June 1996 and is well aware of the dangers. Mrs Mitchell also lived in Yemen for a time but returned to Britain last summer so Ben could complete his GCSEs.

Although no British Council employee has been kidnapped in Yemen before, the spokesman said all employees are warned of the danger. "This is one of the main roads in the country and our staff regularly use it," he said.

"It is obviously difficult. They just have to be on their guard. There is not a lot you can do."

Pat Reigh, secretary of the Sidley Baptist Church where Mrs Mitchell is a deacon, said the family would hold up well. "They are very dogged and the three of them will not panic, I am sure."

Last October, Henry Thompson, a British aid worker, spent 2½ weeks as an unwilling guest of the tribesmen, but said he never felt particulary threatened. "It shouldn't get nasty," he said yesterday. "Yemen is not like Cambodia."

Moratorium on modified crops falls through

David Hencke
Westminster Correspondent

LEGAL advice has led the Government to abandon plans to impose a moratorium on planting genetically modified crops in Britain.

Jeff Rooker, the agricultural minister, has told Norman Baker, Liberal Democrat MP for Lewes: "I am not sure we are in the driving seat . . . We cannot stop, as a UK government, those crops that have been already approved in the European Union from being planted. What we can do of course is to influence industry in its code of practice as to how they will be managed and used."

The admission comes as English Heritage and three other government conservation agencies have called on ministers to introduce an effective three-year ban on growing genetically-modified crops in the United Kingdom to prevent widespread destruction of native birds, insects and the creation of agressive mutant weeds.

Mr Rooker admitted the climbdown during a hearing in Parliament of the Environmental Audit Committee. Minutes passed to the Guardian by Friends of the Earth show that Mr Rooker is sceptical about planting genetically modified crops but believes he cannot stop it.

"I am sceptical, I have to say, as anybody else. I am an engineer by background, and I genuinely try and put myself in the position of a reasonably informed alert person, naturally suspicious of being fed the line by ministers, scientists or officials, and that is the way I try to approach my task as a minister."

He goes on: "We are in no position, as I understand it from legal advice, and we have asked about this, actually to insist on a moratorium of the planting of these crops . . . We may be able to request it if we are not satisfied with the code of practice, but we cannot insist on it."

However, he added: "It has also been decided that every single pesticide that is used on these crops has got to go from the beginning right through the pesticide regulatory process.

"We are not going to allow pesticides that are used for a particular crop to be okayed on a genetically modified version of that crop. We are going to require thorough regulatory approval, which could take a considerable amount of time, it is not done for delay, but it is done because we are applying the precautionary principle."

Adrian Bebb, a spokesman for Friends of the Earth, said: "The minister is putting up the white flag to the industry. He seems to be allowing the biotechnology companies to regulate what happens in the countryside. His decision flies in the face of action in other European Union countries — in France, the government has imposed a moratorium."

Ministers are said to be hoping that the controversy over whether to licence modified oil seed rape — the fourth commonest crop grown in Britain — could be delayed by the manufacturers themselves.

They are hoping that the companies marketing the new seeds may themselves not be able to go ahead with commercial planting until 1999 — thus saving them a row over delaying licences next year.

Nurses warn of recruitment crisis in NHS

David Brindle, Social Services Correspondent

A MOUNTING crisis in recruiting and retaining nurses is threatening to put the NHS in jeopardy, the Royal College of Nursing warned last night, on the eve of its annual congress.

The combination of an ageing workforce and failure to attract young people into nursing spelled disaster for the running of hospitals and community health services, said Christine Hancock, RCN general secretary.

"If we can't keep our nurses and attract new people to the profession, there won't even be an NHS in 10 years," Ms Hancock said.

The warning, which followed a similar alert by doctors about the future of general practice, was directed partly at Frank Dobson, the Health Secretary, who is to address the congress in Bournemouth today.

He is expected to get a cool reception, in stark contrast to the standing ovation he received at the same event last year, just after the general election.

Nurses are anxious about recruitment and being shut out of plans to reshape the NHS market, and angry at the decision to pay their 3.8 per cent pay award in stages.

Ms Hancock said: "I think the Secretary of State will hear very strongly from nurses that they do not want to see their pay award staged ever again — something which became almost commonplace under the previous government."

According to a survey by the Department of Health, four in five NHS trusts are having problems recruiting nurses. By 2000 one in four nurses will be eligible for early retirement. At the other end of the profession, up to one in three nursing students is dropping out.

Whereas 96 per cent of nurses joining the professional register in 1990 were still in the profession, two years later, that dropped to 86 per cent of those registering in 1995.

Ms Hancock said nursing had to be made more attractive in terms of pay, training and job satisfaction. That meant nurses taking more control of health care in ways which, research showed, led to better results for patients.

● THE jobs of 150 nurses have been put out to competitive tender in an unprecedented move which appears to fly in the face of government claims about the end of the NHS market.

Dudley health authority, in the West Midlands, is considering bids from seven NHS trusts to provide community nursing in its area, following dissatisfaction with the local trust's running of existing services.

The development is acutely embarrassing for ministers, who have declared the end of the NHS internal market and protection of clinical staff from market testing.

Bronya Webster, a trade union representative of the nurses affected, said: "We feel as if we are being sold. People are very down and demoralised."

The health authority says it is responding to local GPs' complaints about district nursing and health visiting. It has been trying to resolve the problems for 18 months without recourse to tendering.

Mike Pheelke, the authority's director of finance and contracting, said concerns were not about standards of nursing but about the "quality of management and administration" by Dudley Priority Health Trust.

Attempts to deal with the problems by negotiation had failed, and the tendering exercise had been endorsed by local GPs.

Spurned spouses are swelling ranks of arsonists

Duncan Campbell
Crime Correspondent

SPURNED spouses, disgruntled ex-employees and insurance fraudsters are turning arson into a big growth crime.

A task force involving criminologists and psychologists is examining why more than 2,000 people a week are torching buildings and cars.

Figures released this month show that arson continues to rise as other forms of property crime fall. A campaign aimed at combating the growth of arson in schools is to be launched shortly. The human cost of arson is also high, with 136 fatalities and 3,284 serious injuries in the latest annual figures. The cost is estimated at £1 million a day.

Revenge is cited as the cause of as many as one in five attacks. Vandalism accounts for an equal number, with insurance fraud and concealment of crime also seen as motives. Pyromaniacs are thought to account for only a small percentage of the fires.

"The revenge tends to be either disgruntled ex-employees or people whose relationships have broken down," said Malcolm Tarling, spokesman for the Arson Prevention Bureau based at the Association of British Insurers.

To try to establish a reason for the increase, the country's first arson task force has been established in Newcastle upon Tyne, where around 60 per cent of the call-outs for the fire service are believed to be arson-related. Psychologist Melanie Wells, fire officer Alan Percy and Detective Constable Martyn Campbell will investigate every such incident.

هكذا من الاصل

هكذا من الاصل

Hopes rise over fate of nurses jailed in Saudi Arabia as Prime Minister is promised 'urgent consideration' of case for early release

Blair scoffs at critics of New Britain

Lucy Ward in Jeddah

TONY Blair yesterday launched a dual assault on critics of New Britain, condemning the "snobbishness" of those offended by public grief at the death of Princess Diana and rounding on the "cynics" who mocked his vision of Cool Britannia.

Speaking in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia, on the third day of his Middle East tour, Mr Blair defended the outpouring of emotion provoked by the princess's death last summer.

Last week, Anthony O'Hear of Bradford University reignited debate over public reaction to the death by claiming "emotional correctness" had triumphed over reason. Diana herself, Professor O'Hear claimed, was a symbol of a "fake Britain", a "muddled, self-obsessed woman, who damaged the monarchy and pandered to modern sentimentality".

Mr Blair, interviewed on Sky TV, suggested there was snobbery in such views. "They go on about fake sentimentality in relation to Princess Diana when people really felt like that."

Voicing grief was not un-British, Mr Blair insisted. "The idea that because we express our emotion in a way, frankly, that was felt all round the world about Princess Diana, the notion that that somehow makes us fake or this is un-British I just regard as absurd."

Mr Blair, widely thought to have hit a superbly judged if immaculately spin-doctored note with his tribute to a "people's princess" last September, was quick to stress his own Britishness, "right down to my toenails".

Taking up a theme he intends to hammer home amid frustration that his promotion of a vibrant, forward-looking Britain has been misinterpreted, he denied Cool Britannia — a phrase he did not coin and has come to detest — was about trendiness and style. "It's about real jobs, real investment, real industry."

He has become increasingly irritated as his attempts to speak up for Britain's creative industries, including fashion, music and technology, have been ridiculed by critics as diverse as John Major and the singer Jarvis Cocker. Most recently, the comic Ben Elton condemned Cool Britannia as "a triumph of style over substance".

The episode has exposed the dangers of seeking to define Britishness. Mr Blair has shown himself highly skilled at catching the mood of the country, but attempts to package and market Britain seem doomed to provoke controversy.

● Hopes rose last night over the fate of the two British nurses jailed in Saudi Arabia after Mr Blair left the kingdom with assurances that the case for their early release would be given "very serious and urgent consideration".

Mr Blair expressed confidence that the Saudi royal family would take seriously petitions for mercy from the families of the two, Deborah Parry and Lucille McLaughlan.

There was speculation last night that they could be released shortly, and by Christmas at the latest.

Parry, aged 40, and McLaughlan, 32, have been held since their arrest in December 1996 for the murder of an Australian colleague, Yvonne Gilford, 55. They deny killing her. McLaughlan was found guilty and sentenced to eight years in prison and 500 lashes, but no verdict has been passed on Parry.

At a press conference with King Hussein in Amman, Jordan, yesterday, Mr Blair reiterated hopes that the Saudi royal family would look kindly on pleas for clemency. He raised the issue during a meeting with Prince Abdul on Saturday.

He declined yesterday to speculate on suggestions that the women could be free after serving two years. "I think it is probably best not to try and speculate on that because I don't think it's very helpful to the situation."

Princes turn down holiday with Spencers

Luke Harding

PRINCES William and Harry have turned down the opportunity to share a holiday with the Spencer family and will instead spend the summer with their father, it was claimed yesterday.

The boys were invited to join the family of Lady Sarah McCorquodale, elder sister of Diana, Princess of Wales, for a fortnight in Cornwall in August They had already turned down an invitation from Earl Spencer to attend a memorial pop concert at Althorp, the Spencer family home.

In his address at Diana's funeral, the earl pledged that the Spencer clan — the "blood family" — would look after the two princes.

The earl would not have been on the holiday. But Lady Sarah had hoped the princes would join her husband, Neil, and their three children, Emily, 14, George, 13, and Celia, 9.

Prince Charles was reportedly happy for William, aged 15, and Harry, aged 13, to make up their own minds.

Earl Spencer profile, G2, page 6

Repo house for sale at a record £2.95m

Maev Kennedy

IT IS a mock Georgian millionaire's mansion behind electronically controlled high iron gates, so there is nothing to distinguish the house in Bracknell Gardens from its Hampstead neighbours.

It does, however, have the invisible distinction of being the most expensive repossessed house in London, and therefore almost certainly in Britain.

The house, with eight bedrooms and separate staff flat, drawing room, dining room, library, study, billiards and laundry rooms, has just gone on the market for £2.95 million.

There are a few clues in the glossy brochure that the unfortunate former owner might have run into difficulties: the house "has recently undergone an extensive programme of modernisation ... certain minor works are outstanding." It also has "a magnificent indoor leisure complex including a heated swimming pool (not in use)."

The finance company which repossessed at the end of last year refuses to disclose any information about the former owner, and has forbidden its estate agent, F P D Savills, to identify the company or give out any information about the recent history of the house.

It dates from a speculative development of the 1920s, when a local builder built it and its neighbour among the leafy streets of Edwardian mansions. A private owner bought it 10 years ago, and set about refurbishment, including adding the extension with the pool and gymnasium. He got into financial trouble and tried to sell it for just under £4 million last year. When he failed, his mortgagers repossessed it. Peter Williams, of the Council of Mortgage Lenders, said it was the most spectacular repossession he had heard of since the height of the recession. The high-profile cases of a few years ago have vanished.

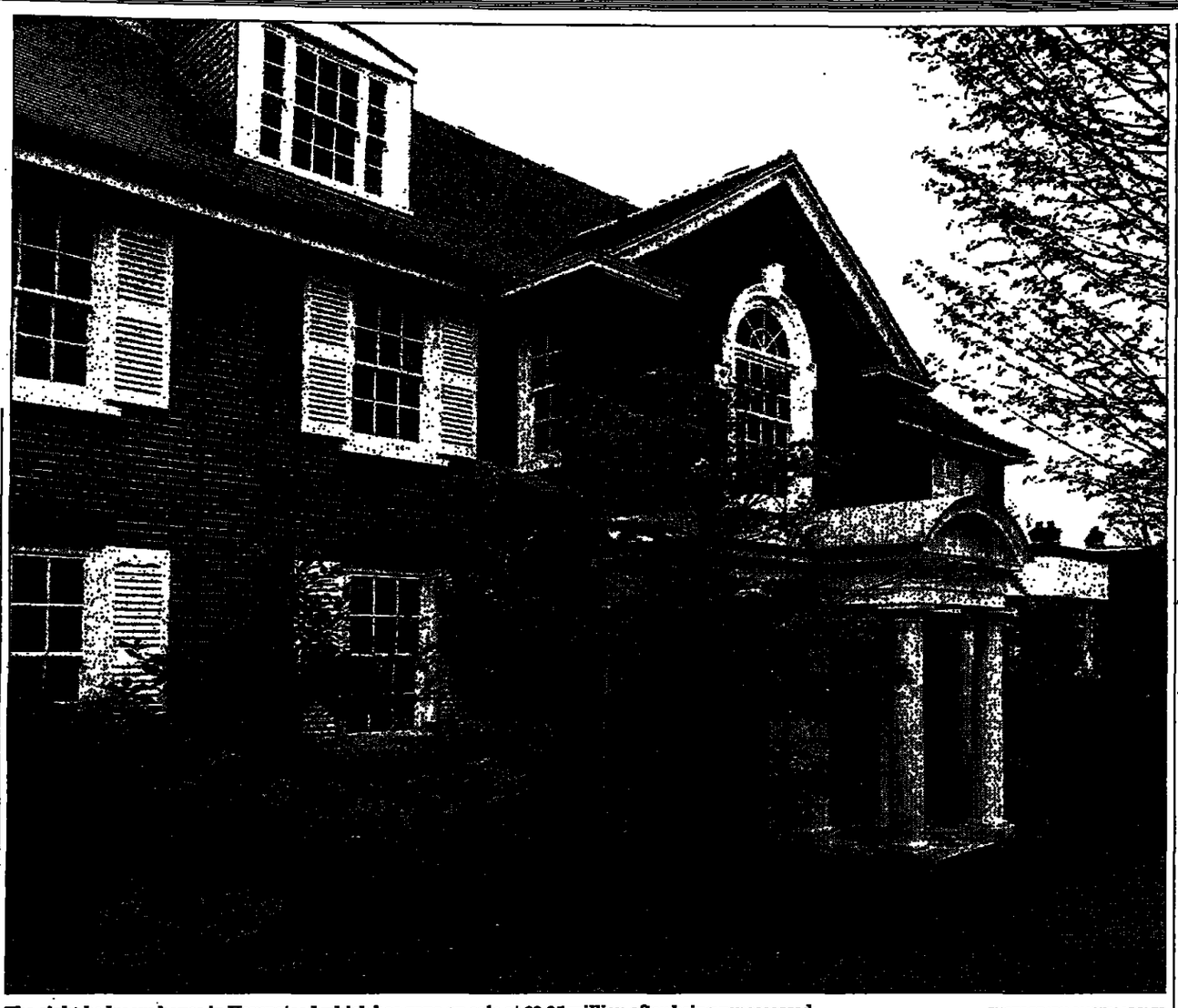
As the housing market started to boom again, it was frequently suggested that lenders were repossessing more promptly once they knew they could sell the properties. Mr Williams said they had no evidence to support this.

"If anything, the lenders learned to manage their errors better — they are far more likely to enter into an agreement than to repossess."

Simon Edwards, manager of Savills' Hampstead office, refused to give any information about his client, but was prepared to enthuse at length about the property.

"There is a lot of interest in this, and it will certainly sell. We have several Russians interested, there is some Arab interest, and we also have several local people who already live in the area and want to move to a bigger house."

"It may sound amazing, but £3 million is not a lot in this part of Hampstead. You're talking about a starting price of £1 million for the most ordinary Victorian semi-detached with a smallish back garden."



The eight-bedroom house in Hampstead which has gone on sale at £2.95 million after being repossessed PHOTOGRAPH: MARTIN ARGLES

How to foil Whitehall hackers

David Hencke
Westminster Correspondent

A TEAM of intelligence agents has been paid to break into the confidential files of cabinet ministers as part of a secret two-month security test to ensure that the launch of Whitehall's first internal computer network tomorrow is safe from hackers.

A team drawn from the security services, the Government's spy listening post, GCHQ, and an élite code-breaking group at the Ministry of Defence have targeted senior members of the Government to ensure ministers can send electronic documents to each other without hackers breaching security.

Among the targets were Tony Blair, the Chancellor, Gordon Brown, the Defence Secretary, George Robertson, the Lord Chancellor, Lord Irvine, and the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster, David Clark, who is in charge of information technology.

Among documents which hackers are said to have tried to obtain were detailed communications over the defence review, minutes of Cabinet meetings and minutes of Cabinet committees.

The exercise was ordered by Dr Clark, after a series of security breaches around the world. A hacker in north London, Richard Pryce, used the codename Datastream Cowboy to break into US military bases, checking for UFO sightings. Another teenage hacker based in Israel, nicknamed the Analyser, broke into the Pentagon and NASA.

The Whitehall system — known as Intranet — will carry hundreds of documents every day from ministers. Initiallly it will be confined to mainland Britain, and aims to provide links between all departments except the Northern Ireland Office in Belfast. The Foreign Office will be linked inside Britain but there will be no access from embassies abroad. Agencies like the Inland Revenue, Customs and Excise and Benefits will be connected to the system. It is also to be linked up with Chequers, the Prime Minister's country residence.

Few of the Cabinet are well versed in using computers, so only their officials will be likely to make the best use of the system, which will rely on renting a secure section of the Internet from Cable and Wireless and Trusted Intelligence Systems using Microsoft software. The section will have "fire walls" to stop outsiders' accessing the information, but will allow access to the Internet.

Dr Clark told the Guardian: "The exercise was part of 12 months' hard work to set up the system. Altogether it has been a success because the team has not been able to penetrate it — although ideally it would have been good to use teenage hackers as well."

Dr Clark said the system would go into regular use tomorrow, but secret and top secret documents would not be transmitted. He also disclosed that the system would be the first of two. An even higher level of security is being planned for another system to be introduced over the next few months, to carry some of the Government's most sensitive documents.

Plutocrats quids in as £100bn barrier is broken

Stuart Millar

TWO billionaire businessmen who each gave £1 million to the Labour Party were yesterday revealed as major success stories among Britain's richest people.

After five successive years in the top three, Lord Sainsbury, head of the supermarket chain, saw a bumper trading year elevate him for the first time to the status of Britain's richest man.

The total wealth of him and his family rose by £800 million to £3.3 billion, according to the annual Sunday Times list of the country's 1,000 richest people.

Bernie Ecclestone, the most powerful figure in Formula One motor racing, emerged as the year's biggest riser, after a £1.225 billion increase in his fortune, to £1.5 billion, catapulted him from 58th equal in the list last year to sixth equal this year.

Both men gave £1 million to the Labour Party in donations which became embroiled in controversy. In November, Tony Blair ordered that Mr Ecclestone's gift be returned after allegations that it had influenced the Government's decision to exempt Formula One from a ban on tobacco sponsorship. Lord Sainsury's donation came to light four months after he was made a life peer in July.

The list shows that Britain's plutocrats had a prosperous year, as soaring stock markets and company valuations took the collective wealth of the richest 1,000 to over £100 billion for the first time since the paper began compiling the list a decade ago.

The total of £108 billion is nearly £10 billion up on last year, and would be enough to finance the country's defence budget for the next five years. So great is the competition that it now requires at least £103 million to get into the top 200 — compared with £30 million in 1988 — and £250 million to make it into the top 100.

As a result, the Queen, who topped the list for the first five years, only just makes it into that grouping because the royal art treasures are no longer included in her personal wealth. Her static £250 million fortune makes her 94th equal, compared with 73rd equal last year. If the estimated £5 billion-£10 billion art collection was included, she would be the wealthiest Briton and the world's wealthiest woman.

Richard Branson has also experienced a difficult year. His wealth has fallen to £1 billion from £1.7 billion last year, taking him from fifth equal to 14th equal.

But the wealth of the richest Britons remains paltry in global terms. Lord Sainsbury would not make it into the top 20 of the world's richest — currently headed by Bill Gates, with a fortune nine times the size of Lord Sainsbury's.

The impact of the National Lottery is demonstrated for the first time with the inclusion of two winners, Terry Benson and Muktar Mohdin, each with £20 million.

There are 16 billionaires on the British list — the same number as last year. They include Mohamed al Fayed, owner of Harrods and Fulham football club, whose £1.2 billion puts him 11th equal.

Two of the billionaires are women. The joint fortune of Chryss Goulandris, a Greek shipping heiress, and her husband, Tony O'Reilly, the food and media tycoon, of £1.1 billion puts her at 13th.

One place behind is Lady Grantchester and the Moores stores, mail order and football pools family, who are worth £1 billion.

Otherwise, women fare poorly on the list, accounting for only 64 of the richest 1,000. Most owe their wealth to inheritance, divorce settlements or family wealth.

Carl Cushnie, whose company Versailles finances small and medium size businesses, becomes the first black entrepreneur to make it into the top 500, with a £71 million fortune. While there are 40 Asians in the top 500 alone, the only other black man on the list is Lennox Lewis, the world heavyweight boxing champion, at joint 769th with £25 million.

Lord Sainsbury: Britain's richest man, with £3.3bn

High rollers

Richest people
1. Lord Sainsbury and family, supermarket tycoon: £3,300 million.
2. Hans Rausing, former head of packaging company: £2,800 million.
3. Lakshmi Mittal, head of steel business: £2,000 million.

Richest women
1. Chryss Goulandris, Greek shipping heiress: £1,100 million.
2. Lady Granchester, head of Littlewoods pools: £1,000 million.
3. Ann Gloag, head of Stagecoach: £560 million.

Richard Branson: Difficult year saw wealth fall to £1bn

Home Insurance

Call FREE for a better price
0500 50 40 80
LINES OPEN 8AM - 8PM WEEKDAYS, 9AM - NOON SATURDAY
Please quote reference: 119909

More cover for less

Alliance Leicester

Alliance & Leicester plc Registered Office: 49 Park Lane, London W1Y 4EQ. Company No: 3263713. Registered in England. Authorised as a bank pursuant to the Banking Act 1987. Member of the British Bankers' Association. The insurance is underwritten by Alliance & Leicester General Insurance Company Limited and Eagle Star Insurance Company Limited. For security and training purposes all telephone calls between you and Alliance & Leicester or its subsidiaries may be recorded or monitored.

The case papers read like a Michael Crichton novel with additional reporting supplied by Penthouse. The firm's top man is accused of at least three affairs with female employees, one of whom was told she could keep her job if she met him at a certain hotel.

G2 cover story

Laser correction for Short-sight Astigmatism

Using the most advanced lasers, our specialist doctors can permanently treat short-sight and astigmatism. After a thorough eye examination and consultation you are given between 15 to 90 seconds laser treatment and you are able to go home shortly afterwards. Having performed over 38,500 treatments since 1992, OPTIMAX has established itself as the largest provider of laser treatment in the UK.

"To wake up in the morning and see perfectly is bliss."

Patient
Pat Sargent,
Songwriter,
London

OPTIMAX
LASER EYE CLINICS
Ref GD28

£495 per eye
Consultation only £30

MONTHLY PAYMENT terms available on request 19% APR

Phone now for your free information pack
0990-14 33 14

LONDON•BRISTOL•MANCHESTER•BIRMINGHAM
NEWCASTLE•GLASGOW

Standard-issue shades hide teenage doubt

David Sharrock talks to the conscripts who like the khaki look but are less clear about their role

THE cannons of their Merkava tanks point north across spring meadows and snow-capped mountains towards Syrian lines, but at present there is little for Israel's teenage conscript warriors to do except train and wait for their next transfer, to the West Bank or south Lebanon.

With a few exceptions, the military draft is inescapable. In a country which has fought four wars in its 50-year history and spent the rest on permanent battle alert, it might seem surprising that so many of its children look forward to the three years they must spend in khaki.

But army life is an essential rite of passage for Israelis. Perhaps because town centres are already such militarised zones, the teenagers hanging out in coffee bars are little troubled by the prospect of joining up.

"It's great, I'm really looking forward to it," says Daniel, whose Jewish parents emigrated from Argentina. "It's like a melting-pot where you get to know all the other Israelis and make friends that last you the rest of your life."

Not all his friends share Daniel's enthusiasm, but they agree that Israel is surrounded by enemies and needs to be defended. The presence of so many soldiers only a few years older than them — the girls in body-hugging fatigues and make-up, the boys in top-of-the-range sunglasses — adds to the impression that military service is more than a duty: it is almost a fashion statement.

"Not fair!" Arye wails mockingly when his older friends depart for another week in the north. "I want to wear sexy sunglasses and carry a gun too!"

In the Golan battalion headquarters of the armoured corps, however, the enthusiasm is beginning to wear thin. Boredom presides, leavened only by the return overnight of a tank unit which engaged the enemy, killing three Hizbullah fighters.

"It was night and we watched them moving for a while, checked they weren't our forces or civilians, and then we shot them," Julian says matter-of-factly.

Eli compares notes with him, reminiscing about the Hizbullah mortar attack on his platoon four months ago.

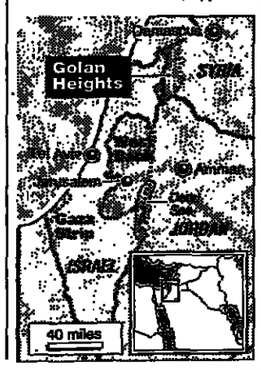
"It's hard to scare me, I don't know why. It's more thrilling than scarey. We returned fire and nobody was seriously injured.

"Lebanon's a beautiful country, you know, it's a shame what's happened to it." Eli has the haziest of ideas of exactly what has happened to it.

Like Israel at large in its 50th year, these young tank jockeys seem confused about what they are doing and where they are going. The "melting-pot" of which Daniel spoke is something of an old chestnut nowadays, and the oft-repeated view that the Israel defence force is "the glue of society" is being harshly tested.

A campaign to withdraw from the security zone Israel has declared in south Lebanon — where the Islamist army of Hizbullah is inflicting a punishing toll on the army — has the backing not only of leftwingers and former senior army officers but of an organisation called the Four Mothers, after a group of women who lost their children in the fighting.

The organisation is a generational phenomenon: the first to have fought in Israel's wars and then grown up and said: "Enough, not my children too."



Another straw in the wind is the vexed debate on "deferment" — the right of ultra-Orthodox Jews to skip military service and study the Torah at the taxpayers' expense. The opposition Labour Party's policy is to end the practice, which has burgeoned in recent years. The religious political parties have told Labour it will spend many more years out of government if it does not repent.

The army points out that religious exemption applies to only 7 per cent of those eligible to serve, but it is no less of a sore point for those joining up.

Yoni Hartmann, a scowling skinhead, has been the commander of his Merkava for more than a year. He is "nearly 21", he tells me with pride, and clearly cannot wait to be demobbed.

The occupied territories are not far from his home in Tel Aviv, but by the way Yoni speaks about them — and the Golan which Israel captured from Syria in 1967 and south Lebanon which it invaded in 1978 — it is clear he wishes they had nothing to do with his life and country.

The biggest eye-opener for Yoni, however, has been his first encounter with young men of his own age who wear a *kippa* (skullcap). Yoni is fiercely secular, the product of parents whose sense of place in the Middle East does not encompass the "Eretz Israel" — Greater Israel — vision of the West Bank as their biblical home.

"I've never had anything to do with religious people. But I've learned that you have to make a difference between the guys that dress in black and people like Dvir." He points to a tall, athletic teenager across the room.

Dvir is from the Jewish settlement of Efrat, part of the Gush Etzion block in the occupied territories south of Jerusalem, and has been a settler for 12 years. He is quiet, volunteered for combat duty and plans after military service to live "in a small place" and spend some more years studying the Torah.

He is one of the religious soldiers of tomorrow: what he means by living somewhere small is a newer settlement than Efrat, which has now swollen to 1,000 families. It is not difficult to imagine what 1,000 sons of Efrat, spreading out across the West Bank, might one day accomplish in terms of land settlement.

But Dvir does not want to discuss that, nor the startling comparison made recently by a retired general between the wearing of the *kippa* and the Nazis' SS movement. Nor the claim made by the IDF's chief of staff that by the time soldiers leave Hebron they have lost all sympathy they may once have had for the Jewish settlers there. I know that the people don't think like that," says Dvir.

"I don't know that man, but anyone can say what they want here, it's a free country," Yoni continues to scowl. "People like Dvir are very idealistic, they all want to go to combat units and are usually very successful in the army.

"Having met Dvir, I'm no more interested in religion than before. I don't believe in God. It's as simple as that."

Before joining the army Yoni had never been to the West Bank. And now, having seen it? "It's nothing special, I'm still not interested. I learned a lot, you see how the Palestinians live. I mean ... they're very poor."

Did he make any friends there? He explodes with laughter. "It's impossible. Some of them hate me, for sure."

"Of course the experience will affect my political views, but I'm not allowed to discuss politics," he smiles.

So I ask a non-political question: what does he hope for his country's future? "I hope all the problems are solved, because we have a lot of problems today. I hope my kids don't get to do all this — what I'm doing. I mean, there's going to be an army for sure, but I hope they don't have to do these kind of things — south Lebanon and the West Bank."

As for making life-long friends in the army, will he and Dvir keep in touch? They both shrug, embarrassed by the question. "Who knows?" says Yoni in almost a whisper.

Army life, an essential rite of passage for Israelis, is more than a duty. For some it verges on being a fashion statement PHOTOGRAPH: DON McPHEE

It's farewell to the fast buck

New currency for top-dollar crime

Mark Atkinson
Economics Correspondent

CRIMINALS the world over will soon be able to pack their stash away in much smaller suitcases thanks to Europe's planned single currency.

A new study says that once euro banknotes begin circulating in 2002 they will quickly rival dollar bills as the underworld's currency of choice because they will be issued in higher denominations, allowing the same value of dirty money to be concealed in smaller places.

The European Central Bank, which will manage the euro on behalf of the 11 countries expected to use the currency, is aiming to issue notes for 100, 200 and 500 euros — each worth much more than the highest-denomination US bill, $100 (£60).

At a euro/dollar exchange rate of 1.10, the new high-value euro notes will correspond to $110, $220 and $550.

Writing in a new book* on the euro published today for the London-based think-tank, Centre for Economic Policy Research, Kenneth Rogoff, of Princeton University, says notes of this size in a currency from a low-inflation economy will be attractive to criminals all over the world.

Instead of lugging thick wads of $100 bills in suitcases, as they do now, they will be able to pack $1 million worth of 500 euro notes into a purse. Prof Rogoff says demand for and supply of hard currency banknotes, particularly large-denomination ones, has been growing faster over the past two decades than the economies themselves, despite the development of electronic money.

Since few legitimate business transactions are in cash, and the general public own up to holding only relatively small quantities of banknotes, Prof Rogoff concludes that most of the growth is linked to the development of the black economy and the developing world's appetite for a safe, reliable currency.

He estimates that 25-30 per cent of the £765 billion supply of currency from the industrialised countries represented by the Organisation of Economic Cooperation and Development is held by developing countries, mostly in dollars. Some of that demand is above-board. Dollars are in wide use in Latin America, especially Argentina, where official shipments of dollar bills during the 1990s have exceeded $40 billion (£23 billion), and in the former Soviet bloc; more than $60 billion has been shipped to Russia in recent years. But other heavy users of dollars include the mafia and drug barons.

Prof Rogoff says a further 50 per cent of OECD hard currency helps oil the wheels of the domestic OECD black economy, leaving just 20 per cent to be used for the designed purpose. He says the European Central Bank stands to make handsome seignorage profits from the popularity of the euro abroad, especialy the large denomination bank notes.

Seignorage — from the French word meaning "the right of the sovereign" — is the income earned by central banks on the funds they receive in exchange for issuing currency. Prof Rogoff warns that these profits could easily be outweighed by the rising costs of the simultaneous stimulation of criminal and other black economy activity at home.

While it could be argued that, in circumventing burdensome tax rates and regulations, black marketeers are helping to make their national economies more productive and efficient, they are ultimately responsible for higher tax rates for law abiding citizens and should therefore be discouraged, he says.

He suggests the ECB should either cancel its plans for large-denomination banknotes or place reporting requirements on them.

The decision to issue the high-denomination notes in the first place was designed to accommodate Germany which issues marks up to a face value of DM1,000 (£325) each.

*EMU: Prospects and Challenges for the Euro, published by Blackwell.

Cowardice must not be the current currency, page 11

The world's gangsters will be giving up the traditional suitcase laden with greenbacks as the 500 euro note, right, becomes the illicit currency of choice

China expels dissident

Andrew Higgins
in Hong Kong

WANG DAN, the Chinese history student who helped command million-strong marches into Tiananmen Square in 1989, was released from jail yesterday and bundled on board a plane to the United States. He is the latest in a string of prominent dissidents sent into exile abroad.

Mr Wang, aged 29, was freed on "medical parole" and left Beijing for Detroit — the same route into exile as that taken last November by the veteran democracy activist Wei Jingsheng. Mr Wang's departure comes two months before a visit to Beijing by Bill Clinton, the first such trip by a US president since George Bush in February 1989.

Like the Soviet Union under Leonid Brezhnev, China increasingly prefers to silence its better-known critics by sending them abroad. The tactic, whose most celebrated Soviet victim was Alexander Solzhenitsyn, gets rid of dissonant voices while avoiding international condemnation.

The White House, which has been lobbying for concessions on human rights before Mr Clinton's trip, welcomed Mr Wang's release.

Human rights groups and democracy activists in Hong Kong cheered the end of his incarceration but condemned the "hostage politics".

Wang Dan demonstrating in Beijing in 1989

Leader comment, page 9

Indonesian crisis worsens

John Aglionby in Jakarta

INDONESIA'S most serious political crisis in decades intensified at the weekend as army-sponsored talks to bring student protesters and the government together were dismissed as "a farce".

Student leaders, many of whom did not attend the meeting, are planning to expand their daily demonstrations and improve co-ordination between them as they oppose President Suharto's regime. The ageing leader has vowed to crush any dissent.

The students demand an end to the corruption, nepotism and cronyism that have been the hallmarks of the former general's authoritarian grip on power for the past 32 years. Most of them are now saying openly that this would only be possible with the removal of General Suharto himself.

The defence minister, General Wiranto, told the 50 students who attended the talks with 15 ministers and armed forces chiefs at Jakarta Fairground that the government also wanted political reform. "We cannot retain the status quo for ever. However, such reform cannot occur all of a sudden. It must be gradual."

The students dismissed his words as empty rhetoric and said he was stalling for time. "They heard what we said but didn't seem to listen," said Ella Pristiyanti, from Udayana University in Bali.

Student leaders from the country's most influential universities boycotted the talks and met in Bogor, West Java, to discuss ways to better co-ordinate their protests.

"We knew the Jakarta meeting would be a farce and it was," said a member of the University of Indonesia's student senate. "The government says they won't start political reform till the economic crisis is over, but we're trying to show that you can't end the economic crisis without political reform."

The demonstrations turned increasingly violent last week and spilled from the campuses into the streets. The number of protesters is swelling from hundreds to more than 10,000 every day in some cities. Ominously for Gen Suharto, the young people are being joined by housewives angered by nine months of economic meltdown and the government's failure to prevent the price of basic commodities soaring by as much as 500 per cent.

Jungles face US 'toxic rain'

Jeremy Lennard in Bogotá

THE warning is clear: "Caution — Do not apply near desirable trees or other woody species. Exposure of even a small part of a plant root system may cause severe plant injury or death." So reads the labelling on the herbicide Spike 20P, or Tebuthiuron.

But against the advice of Greenpeace, the Worldwide Fund for Nature, and even the manufacturers, Dow Agrosciences, United States officials in Bogotá say Tebuthiuron is their choice to bolster the aerial destruction of coca leaf cultivation deep in Colombia's southern rainforests.

While the debate focuses on Tebuthiuron, which has been successfully used around the world to clear vegetation on roadsides and railway cuttings, many claim that the US is wasting its time and money trying to reduce cocaine production by eradicating coca crops.

Last year one US operative described the fumigation efforts as "pissing in the wind", and US statistics support his view. About 20,000 acres of coca leaf have been fumigated since 1994, but cultivation has steadily risen each year.

The most common criticism is that US measures will not work in the face of fierce demand. The US embassy in Bogotá claims that Washington's anti-narcotics effort is focused on domestic demand, but studies suggest that 65 per cent of the expenditure is aimed at the supply side abroad.

Nevertheless, Luis Eduardo Parra, Colombia's environmental assessor for coca eradication, says fumigation must be part of a broader attack. "The majority of ether and acetone needed to produce good quality cocaine is imported from the US and Europe," he says.

A report by the National University in Bogotá claims that coca fumigation is counterproductive. Growers move deeper into the jungle and plant more to absorb the risk of losses. Prices are pushed up, adding incentives to traffickers, while, without an economically viable crop replacement scheme, small growers are put out of business, contributing to widespread poverty and swelling the guerrillas' ranks.

US officials say that coca eradication is going well under the circumstances, although they are hampered by harassment from leftwing rebels and problems associated with Glifosate — their current herbicide.

Glifosate is a liquid which cannot be applied in rainy or windy conditions. Pilots are obliged to fly low and slowly, making them vulnerable to guerrilla sniper fire. The advantage of Tebuthiuron, a granular chemical, is that it can be applied in all weathers from a higher altitude.

The US embassy in Bogotá quotes studies by Charles Helling, a scientist in the US ministry of agriculture, which conclude that Tebuthiuron can be used in the rainforest without risk to humans or the environment.

But Dow Agrosciences, which warns that treatment should be well away from surrounding vegetation and that the chemical can easily contaminate ground water, does not want its product tried in Colombia.

"It is our desire that Tebuthiuron not be used for coca eradication," a spokesman for the company said. "It could be very risky where the terrain has slopes, rainfall is significant, desirable plants are nearby, and application is made under less than ideal conditions."

A decision on using Tebuthiuron is expected from Colombia's National Drugs Council within a week.

Mr Parra is in favour of its use. "Dow's reluctance to allow Tebuthiuron to be used in Colombia is a result of their experiences in Vietnam, not fears over the chemical itself. The US government stranded the company with the legal fallout from the use of Agent Orange, and they are nervous of a new partnership."

US officials deny they are being drawn into another jungle war, but the Pentagon acknowledged this week that it has more than 200 military and civilian personnel in Colombia.

● Colombia's leading human rights lawyer, Eduardo Umana Mendoza, was shot dead in Bogotá at the weekend by three people claiming to be journalists.

A Bolivian coca grower is set upon by anti-narcotic forces PHOTOGRAPH: AMANECER TEDESQUI

هكذا من الاصل

هكذا من الاصل

News in brief

Party considers Abacha challenge

THE convention of the Nigerian Grassroots Democratic Movement (GDM) was last night debating whether the country's military ruler, General Sani Abacha, will face a challenger in presidential elections in August.

Gen Abacha, aged 54, has been adopted as candidate by four other parties, and the GDM, meeting in the north-eastern town of Maiduguri, is the only one with other potential runners.

But some delegates said the last-minute resignation of the convention chairman, a supporter of former police chief Mohammed Yusufu, suggested that the GDM could also back Gen Abacha, who has decreed elections under his plan to restore civilian rule. Democracy campaigners have dismissed the plan as a farce designed to ensure that Gen Abacha, who seized power in 1993, retains office. — *Reuters, Maiduguri.*

Young suspect hangs himself

A SUSPECT in a gruesome murder case in suburban Washington has committed suicide, officials said.

Aaron Needle, aged 18, hanged himself with a bedsheet at a jail in Rockville, Maryland, on Saturday. Needle faced the accusation that he and Samuel Scheinbein, aged 17, killed, dismembered and burned the body of Alfredo Tello in Maryland in September.

Mr Scheinbein fled to Israel and is fighting extradition, claiming Israeli citizenship. Needle had been due to undergo psychiatric evaluation at the weekend. — *Martin Kettle, Washington.*

'Corrupt' Algerian police held

ALGERIAN authorities have arrested 120 policemen accused of human rights abuses, El Watan newspaper reported yesterday.

The suspects, accused of killings, abuse of power, theft and corruption, were being held at a high security prison in Algiers, justice ministry officials were quoted as saying. The ministry was said to have recorded 10 cases of "extra-judicial execution", seven of them carried out in police stations.

The country has been racked by violence since 1992, when the authorities cancelled elections in which radical Islamists had taken the lead. — *Reuters, Paris.*

Italians suspect serial killer

ITALIAN police suspect the work of a serial killer after a 32-year-old woman was found dead in a train toilet at Ventimiglia near the French border at the weekend. She had been shot behind the ear in circumstances similar to another killing over Easter.

The police are linking the two deaths to six others along the Italian Riviera since March 9. It was reported that the same type of fragmenting bullet was used in the killings. — *AP, Ventimiglia.*

Home comforts for hostages

THE International Committee of the Red Cross said yesterday it had managed to send an aid package to 10 relief workers held hostage in the Somali capital, Mogadishu, since Wednesday.

A spokesman said the packages contained basic medical supplies, clothes, games and magazines sent by the families of the captives, who are of various nationalities.

Talks continued yesterday between clan elders and politicians in Mogadishu and the Red Cross and Somali Red Crescent in an attempt to secure their release. — *Reuters, Nairobi.*

Gunmen kill 13 in India

SUSPECTED militants killed at least 13 people, mostly Hindus, in the Indian state of Jammu and Kashmir, police said yesterday.

The attack took place late on Friday night at the remote village of Dhakikot in Udhampur district, about 115 miles from Jammu. Gunmen entered houses and fired indiscriminately, killing seven men, four women and two children.

Around a dozen militant groups are fighting New Delhi's rule in India's only Muslim majority state. — *Reuters, Jammu.*

Mrs Yeltsin strikes a chord

Naina Yeltsin wins applause for her efforts on the Japanese harp yesterday as Kumiko Hashimoto, top left, wife of the Japanese prime minister, looks on. Mrs Yeltsin's husband Boris was in Japan for a summit PHOTOGRAPH: KAKU KURITA

In poverty's last asylum

The civil war may be over but Tajikistan is still in disarray, **Claudia McElroy** reports

DRESSED in a tattered suit and dirty overcoat, a cossack hat pushed back on his head, Valodia Nazarov, aged 15, marches around the walled yard of the men's quarter shouting amiably at his friends. Few of them respond. One emaciated old man squats on his haunches, rocking incessantly.

Manucher, an 11-year-old mentally handicapped boy, looks appealingly at Valodia but remains mute. Many of the others, heavily drugged, stare blankly and ignore him.

Valodia, an orphan, has spent the past eight years in the Republican Clinical Psychiatric hospital in Leninsky, a few miles outside Dushanbe. Although known as a "trouble-maker", he has no diagnosed medical illness. Yet with no family and nowhere else to go, he — and five other boys — is effectively incarcerated in the hospital alongside psychotic adults.

"Unfortunately these children will grow old here. Either they have no parents or they have been dumped here," Mirgul Tilloev, a psychiatrist, said.

"Valodia, for example, will stay here forever unless someone from outside shows an interest in him. But at least the conditions here are better now."

Years of neglect, exacerbated by the collapse of the Soviet Union and Tajikistan's rapid slide into civil war in 1992, had a catastrophic effect on the Leninsky mental hospital.

In 1996 the mortality rate

was about 30 per cent, with as many as 40 patients dying in one month of malnutrition, pneumonia and tuberculosis. Now, as in virtually every sector of health and social welfare in the country, temporary relief is being provided by international aid agencies.

"With so many humanitarian needs across the country, and a severe lack of resources, both the government and aid agencies have neglected the issue of mental health — which anyway has a strong sense of social stigma attached to it," said an official of Médecins sans Frontières (MSF).

"We are now trying to train local medics as well as help the government to develop a national law on psychiatric health. At present there is no differentiation between mental illness and handicap, and many of these patients should not even be here. Attitudes must be changed."

The civil conflict between Tajikistan's pro-communist government and the Islamic opposition — which has killed up to 50,000 people and forced 20 per cent of the 5.6 million population to flee — has added to the ranks of the mentally ill. "As well as ex-fighters with various psychoses, many people have been seriously traumatised by witnessing atrocities," the MSF official said.

Tajikistan was the poorest republic even before the collapse of the Soviet Union in 1991. Now, with continuing violence threatening to derail the peace process, the economy in ruins, and organised crime on the increase, the country is in danger of complete disintegration.

One factor preventing collapse is Russia, which maintains a peacekeeping force along the Afghan border as a buffer between Islamic fundamentalism and the central Asian countries, and has a strong commercial hold over the resource-rich country.

The other factor is Tajikistan's dependence on international aid. Almost every aspect of shelter construction, health care provision, water supply and sanitation is being funded by foreign donors.

"There must come a point when the government itself contributes and eventually takes over these projects, yet there is no sign whatsoever of that," an international aid worker said.

"When you see government ministers driving around in their fleet of brand new Mercedes bought from Germany, it makes you wonder what you're doing here."

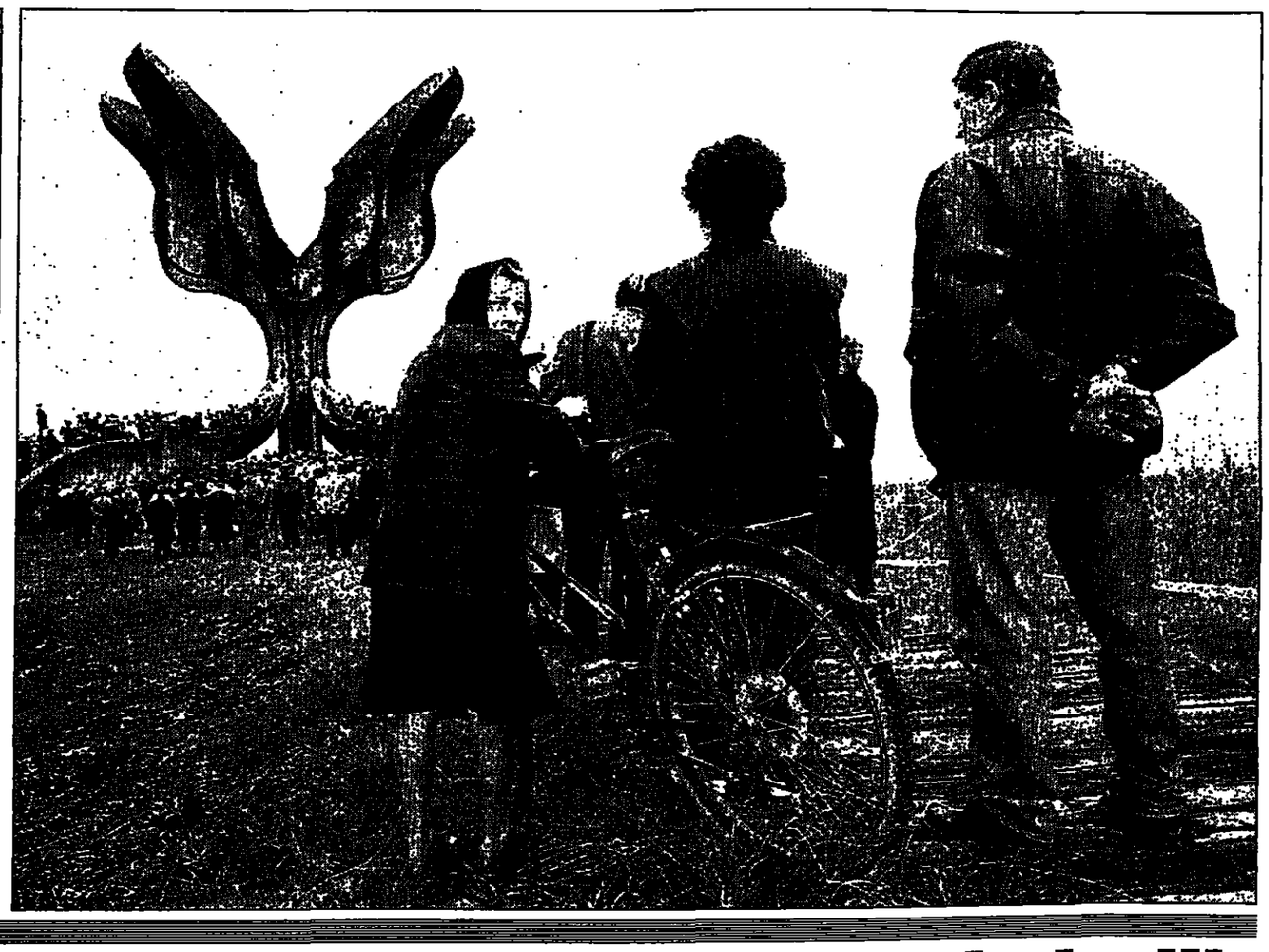
The government appears immune to such criticism. "In our goal of achieving economic recovery we are appealing to foreign investors to come to Tajikistan, since there is great potential in our natural resources — including aluminium, gold and hydroelectric power," said a spokesman for President Imamali Rakhmonov.

In the meantime, Tajikistan's indigent population will take whatever help is on offer.

As one visitor to the Leninsky hospital said: "With no education, no health care and no jobs, Valodia's chances of survival are probably better in here than they would be outside.

"The biggest fear is if the aid agencies leave. Then Tajikistan might disappear off the map completely."

Nazis' victims remembered



Against the backdrop of the Warsaw Ghetto monument, above, a rabbi prays as Poland yesterday remembered Jewish fighters who launched a doomed uprising against the Nazis in the city 55 years ago. And right, Croatian Jews pay their respects at a monument outside Jasenovac. Yesterday was the 53rd anniversary of the Soviet liberation of the Nazi death camp which once stood on the site

MAIN PHOTOGRAPH: ANTONIO BAT

EU applicant faces 'five years in hell'

Stephen Bates in Ljubljana

THE barmaid in the Zlata Ribica bar in Ljubljana's old town was surprised to be asked about Slovenia's hopes of joining the European Union. "I don't know anything about it. Maybe one day it might be good for us, maybe not," she said. Further along the bar an old man reading his paper looked up and said: "We used to be in the Hapsburg Empire, so why not?"

These are answers the Slovenian government does not want to hear. It is busy trying to convince Europe that its small northern corner of former Yugoslavia, population 2 million, is fully committed to early membership of the EU. It also wants to join Nato — on which it will have to convince the United States — as soon as possible.

To do so it is willing, after only seven years of independence, to submit itself, like the other east European candidates, to perhaps the most peremptory and intrusive terms imposed on Western countries not defeated in war.

In an echo of former communist days, accession is described by the foreign minister, Boris Friec, as national project number one. "We know we are as but a breadcrumb to Europe but we hope Slovenia will be assessed on its own merits and we will do whatever we have to."

There can be no opt-outs. For a new country, the undertaking is staggering

The government says there is no viable economic alternative to joining the EU. The population is much less sure: opinion polls track opposition at 45 per cent and rising.

Slovenia will have to complete a questionnaire running to 90,000 pages, covering everything from economic liberalisation and pension and banking reforms to working conditions, environmental standards and the dismantling of border posts. Thorny issues such as the nuclear power station at Krsko, run with Croatia, will have to be sorted out. VAT must be introduced next year.

There can be no opt-outs — the country will have to join the single currency, making the tolar, introduced after Slovenia opted out of the Yugoslavian dinar, one of the world's shortest-lived currencies.

The screening process may take a year, and detailed negotiations a further three. Boris Cizelji, director-designate of the government's office for European Affairs, said: "We are going to spend five years in hell."

For a small, new country the undertaking is staggering. It still has to recruit enough civil servants to take part in the negotiations, and must retrain judges and officials to cope with European law. The parliament is meeting for 10 hours a day just to pass EU regulations into law.

Slovenia is one of six applicant countries, with the Czech Republic, Poland, Hungary, Estonia and Cyprus, considered by the EU likely to be sufficiently advanced to join, perhaps by the end of 2002.

Slovenia has undoubtedly advanced economically: inflation is down from 2,000 per cent in the days of the dinar to below 9 per cent, unemployment is 7 per cent, and the GDP is growing at 4 per cent a year. Privatisation is steaming ahead and two-thirds of its production is exported. The stock exchange, which had 30 member companies last summer, now has 66.

The government has set up a public awareness campaign to promote its push for accession. But the arguments for joining have nothing to do with European dreams of harmony and integration. They are all economic.

Janez Potocnik, head of the Slovenian EU negotiating team, said: "We want to be a market economy and whether we joined the EU or not we would have to be making reforms anyway. We simply don't have any other solution if we don't want to be a closed society like Serbia."

Kalashnikov is automatic choice for designer prize

James Meek in Moscow

A GLASS case filled with weapons by the notorious gunmaker Kalashnikov now occupies an honoured place in Moscow's prime modern art gallery, the Tretyakov, alongside paintings, books, stage designs and architectural drawings in the State Prize '97 exhibition.

Mikhail Kalashnikov and seven fellow gunsmiths are a racing certainty for laurels in the modern design category.

Portable, reliable, low-tech and user-friendly, Kalashnikov rifles have proved popular worldwide: 75 million have been sold.

Until now they have been acquired less for their stylish appearance, clean, bold lines and masterly blending of wood and metal than for their efficiency in killing people.

The Union of Designers of Russia, which nominated the weapons, could argue in their defence that neither the famous AK-47 nor its still more deadly successor, the AK-74, instrument of the death of millions around the world, is up for the award — the artwork in question is the Saiga series of automatic shotguns.

But the Saiga guns share a strong family resemblance with the military Kalashnikovs in a country where humans are as much a prey as bear or elk.

In the Urals city of Izhevsk, home of the Kalashnikov, no one thinks it strange that municipal funds are being used to build a Kalashnikov museum, or is embarrassed that last year a panel of experts concluded the Kalashnikov automatic was the best symbol of modern Russia.

The diminutive 78-year-old Kalashnikov is a celebrity in Russia. Last month in the Kremlin President Boris Yeltsin presented him with a ceremonial pistol to mark the 50th anniversary of his gun.

Honey, I shrunk the car insurance!

Call the Motor Insurance Hotline now to see if you can shrink yours.

0345 123 111

Please quote ref. NPA

Hill House Hammond

Over 200 branches nationwide

Comment

Kruger Diary

Liz McGregor

NELSON MANDELA sweeps in on a wave of bodyguards to deliver a simple but unequivocal message: things must change. These are the centenary celebrations of the Kruger Park, South Africa's biggest national game park — 2,000,000 hectares of it, stretching along the eastern border with Mozambique up to Zimbabwe in the north. Its tangled roots reflect the country's history: named after Paul Kruger, president of the first Transvaal republic, but effectively started and run by a Scot who came out to fight in the Boer war. Colonel James Stevenson-Hamilton of the Sixth Inniskilling Dragoons fell in love with this malaria-infested wilderness and devoted the next 50-odd years to protecting it from hunters, gold prospectors and land-hungry farmers.

The first 100 years of the park, as Mandela points out, entailed systematic dispossession for the local black tribespeople — moved off ancestral land so that animals should have exclusive occupation. From now on, local people must benefit from the park and be included in it, he says, his face stiff, almost expressionless. And then he tells a joke: and suddenly his face is alive with warmth and mischief. He moves outside and the waiting black staff ululate with delight. He shakes every hand that reaches him through the fence of bodyguards, clearly revelling in the contact. Then he is shepherded to the airstrip to fly back to Johannesburg, and a near-riot breaks out amongst the many black staff who didn't reach him.

The Kruger, so long an Afrikaner preserve, is one of the government's many areas of contention with the white right. The very architecture of Skukuza, headquarters of the park and the biggest of its 20-odd camps, reflects apartheid. In the staff village, the only black faces in the swimming pool, the tennis courts and the golfcourse opening out on to a lake full of hippo and heron and iridescent dragonflies are those of servants — who go home at night to disease-ridden compounds, well out of sight. Only in one garden do black children play: that attached to the house of David Mabunda, who was appointed two months ago as the park's first-ever black director. A graduate of Manchester University, he has been grafted on to an entirely white male (mostly Afrikaans) management structure.

In the camp shop, Taiwanese-made plastic giraffe and lion among chops and *boerewors* sold for the traditional nightly *braaivleis* are an insult to local black sculptors, who are reduced to flagging down cars outside the park to hawk their hand-carved animals.

THE priority now is financial reform. The old government willingly poured money into this playground for its voters. The new government has other priorities. Camp restaurants and shops are being put out to private tender. Surplus rhino, elephant and zebra are being sold off. Kruger vets (mostly male and pale, as the locals call this endangered species) have built up an expertise David Mabunda will take a long time to replace. Their elephant contraception experiments may have been still-born but they are able to sedate wild rhino and incarcerate them in log enclosures long enough to habituate them to a smaller, meaner world before selling them off to zoos or private breeders (who invariably want them for some rich German or American hunter who will pay double to put a bullet through their heads). If rhinos are transplanted in new territory without this intervening period in captivity they simply charge through the nearest fence. They may have famously tiny brains but they're not stupid.

BELL20, RU 1

Everybody believes in something: goddess, guru or gobbledegook

Joan Smith

ARE you fed up with *feng shui*? Perhaps you should try smudging, the latest craze in New York for unhappy apartment owners. What it involves is a Native American exorcism ritual which rids homes of evil spirits — and I don't mean the stuff that comes in bottles. A leading Manhattan estate agent, Barbara Corcoran, recently called in a smudger when she could not sell an apartment on Fifth Avenue. "It started as an act of total desperation," she said. "But we had a smudger come in and chase away those evil spirits." Next morning, a prospective buyer made a full-price offer.

Like me, you probably recall a time when interior decoration involved decisions no more complicated than whether to use magnolia or white-with-a-hint-of-apricot in the spare bedroom. These days, I have come across people who re-site their bathrooms on the instructions of *feng shui* practitioners and move mirrors around so they don't reflect good energy out of their houses, or money out of their purses (although they seem happy enough to hand it over to people who practise this ancient Chinese art).

Then there's astrology, with even broadsheet newspapers apparently feeling it incumbent on themselves to provide readers with horoscopes and telephone consultations for individual star signs. I haven't even begun to mention the vast range of New Age therapies available up and down the country, from colonic irrigation to reflexology to Tarot readings and — my favourite, this — counselling for trauma in past lives for people who believe in reincarnation. (Personally, I have enough trouble with this one.) Not long ago, a friend in the West Country asked me to accompany her to a Friends' meeting house where, expecting a Quaker ceremony, I was astonished to find myself observing a four-hour pagan ritual. It was in honour of the Celtic goddess Imboic, a deity I had not previously encountered; but some of the 30 women present said they had been attending similar ceremonies for a couple of years. The proceedings were a hotchpotch of incantations and liminal rituals, accompanied by circle dancing to German heavy metal music. When I made to leave, one of the organisers announced she had put a closing spell on the door. Fortunately, it proved easy enough to break.

WITH such things going on all around us, it seems to me undeniable that we have entered a new age of credulity in which fundamentalist versions of old religions, Christianity and Islam, flourish side by side with newer cults. Eight hundred thousand people have already booked to see the Turin shroud, which has just returned to public display in Italy, convinced it is the cloth which wrapped Christ's body even though tests have shown it is probably no more than 700 years old. God the Mother, pagan deities, reincarnation, evil spirits, good and bad karma, all have their adherents; even William Hague, who recently announced that he likes to think about God while walking on the Yorkshire Moors, is veering towards a form of deism in tune with an age which prefers personal forms of spirituality to organised religion.

And yet the most urgent theological question people currently have to face is not whether they believe in God. It is whether they subscribe to the irrational and intolerant cult which has grown up around the late Princess Diana. Like any fledgling religion, its believers are noisy and unwilling to listen to opposing views, as Professor Anthony O'Hear discovered last week. His criticisms of the princess, contained in a book published by the right-wing Social Affairs Unit, prompted a storm of denunciation, including a rebuke from the Prime Minister, who has assumed the role of chief keeper of the flame. Prof O'Hear is a monarchist and I am not convinced by all his arguments, but his claim that the princess displayed a "child-like self-centredness" seems a perfectly reasonable conclusion.

She was also, with her reliance on astrology and psychics, a prime example of the gullibility I am talking about. But religions are based on faith and their belief systems cannot bear rational analysis. Since her death, Diana has become something between a secular saint and an actual deity, rather in the way that Roman emperors took on quasi-divine status *post mortem*. To criticise her is to risk serious unpopularity, especially if you fail to begin with the compulsory recital of her virtues — how kind she was, her empathy with the underprivileged, her courage in surviving bulimia and an unhappy marriage.

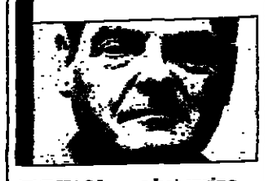
To suggest that these traits are really rather unexceptional, that millions of people have survived unhappy childhoods, eating disorders, divorce and worse, amounts in the current climate to blasphemy. I have no doubt that what we are witnessing is a process in which the princess's consoling fantasies about herself have mingled with those of her adoring fans to create an old-fashioned hagiography. Or that it has as much to do with reality as those improving lives of the saints which used to be distributed to children at Sunday school.

"Superstition," said Voltaire, "sets the whole world in flames. Philosophy quenches them." In the self-deluding atmosphere in which we now live, it is the other way round, with rationalisation provoking howls of outrage as people demand the right to nurture their fantasies undisturbed. This is a measure of how dramatically we have turned our backs on the values of the Enlightenment. It also explains the isolation, and the growing impatience, felt by those of us who not believe in God, *feng shui* or Diana.

Polly Toynbee is away

South Bank blues

Peter Preston



IT HAS been a hot spring day in the city: too fierce, amid the glare of afternoon, to stray far from the shade. But now, as evening begins to arrive, the streets are suddenly full of people. They teem from their houses and fill the paths to the square. The buzz of their chatter fills the air. Is that Ken Livingstone on the left, and Jeffrey Archer on the right? Stroll on . . . dream on.

We're sitting, since you ask, in one of the masterpieces of Western civilisation: the 18th-century Plaza Mayor of Salamanca. Hail to Alberto Churriguera and Andres Garcia de Quinones. Nobody has despoiled your vision. The pale, gold sandstone of Villamayor survives the storm and heat of centuries as though it had been carved yesterday. Tonight, though, like every night, it isn't the edifices that matter: it's the people.

Some come to sit in the cafés that ring the square. They're the minority. Most merely walk and talk. Old couples in threadbare cardigans; topers with jutting bellies limbering up for their first drink of the session; tradesmen in dark suits buttoned incongruously tight; students in jeans, laughing and joshing. Community. The word drops glibly from politicians' lips; the greatest good in a world of silence and brutality. And here it is, made flesh. The square is the fulcrum of community.

Now take another day in another city. There's a river to wander by, and vistas of buildings old and new to explore. But a chill breeze blows from the east and the people are few. They stride, eyes down, across an expanse of cracked paving stones. They don't look at the grey, stained lumps behind them. Who would? Nor do they stray far from the river bank into the caverns of concrete where men in rags and cardboard boxes sleep by night and sour-smelling litter twists in the wind by day. They do not stop to talk. Who would?

No prizes, of course: this is the throbbing heart of British arts, the South Bank. It is not quite derelict. But it repels and depresses. If the arts are for people then this grisly backcloth tells people to hurry on by, to get their tickets and scurry for safety. Cool Britannia? Flyblown, desolate Britannia.

I WAS, I think, one of the first to hear about Richard Rogers's dream of what the South Bank might become. He came into the Guardian at the start of the decade — long before his finished plans won the contract — and described the swirling swathe of glass that would cover the complex with a sweep of his hands. You could sneer if you liked. "Very cafe society, very Euro-rip-off." You could, if all you cared about was the theatre or the concert halls, not see the point of turning the Bank into somewhere safe and warm for the hoi-polloi. But Rogers, from the start, was thinking *people* — and meeting places. He knew it was good to talk.

Well, goodbye to all of that. The grand design went down the pan last month, wrecked by too many nerveless years drifting from committee to committee and an Arts Council which changed its collective mind. Chris Smith, the irrelevant Minister, has set up a "broad working group" to rabbit about "other ways forward". Broad? I mean the South Bank Centre, the Arts Council, the Heritage Lottery Fund, the South Bank Employment Group, the Cross-River Partnership, the Department of the Environment and Lambeth Council for starters. Expect nothing: hope for nothing.

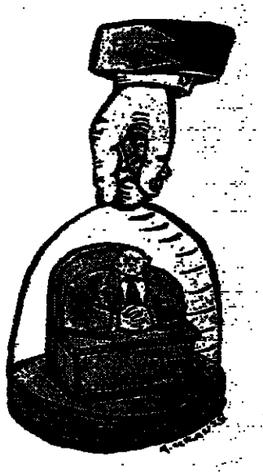
We haven't quite figured yet what the new mayor of London will do. He (or she) will mind the police and fire shops and — without extra cash or resource — be deep into crime and jobs. He (or she) will want the tube to run on time. But there's a bread pudding feel to the Government's mandate, an edgy anxiety not to let the post get too high profile or the ambition too over-arching. Whitehall and Lambeth Council know best.

Any decent mayor who cares about his brief and his city, though, won't settle for the cold prunes in this tatty confection. He will want to do visible things that make a difference — the things that Mayor Chirac did to Paris or Mayor Giuliani to the seedy surrounds of Times Square. Any decent mayor, in short, will need to be the heart and soul of South Bank regeneration.

There's scant sign that this thought has even wafted across the minds in the ministries and the smugs on the committees. The timetable doesn't fit. The refurbishment that waited so indolently for so long now cannot wait. But there ought to be a role for the mayor built in from the restart: and it ought to be infinitely expandable.

The South Bank complex is not just an agglomeration of theatres and halls and galleries. It is much, much more than that. Indeed, the umbilical involvement of "arts administrators", with their narrow concerns and threshing bureaucracies, has been the tragedy so far.

The mayor of Barcelona or Bordeaux would know what the South Bank was really for: a centre of community. We have a few in Britain: the Riverside in Bristol, Princes Street on a sunny day, Covent Garden before the tourist rush, some of the old market places of our county towns. But mostly the pavements are narrow and crushed; and the squares are locked gardens or underground car parks, with traffic ringing them like a malevolent moat. These aren't places to walk or places for people. They are punctuation marks to the squalor of the sprawl.



Rogers's kiboshed dream was a humane space for humanity to relish

The British live in cities, but feel bad about it. They have parks to exercise in, but parks are essentially solitary spots, acres for strangers walking dogs. You go there not to be seen, but to be anonymous in this apology for a countryside. You do not, remotely, go to talk. Who is there to talk to?

The Plaza Mayor in Salamanca — like the other great squares of Europe — sends an utterly different message, and invitation. It exalts the city. It instils a pride. But most of all, without discrimination, it welcomes everyone who lives around and mingles them in the benignity of chat and laughter. You feel good merely by being there.

Richard Rogers understood that absolutely. The wonder of his kiboshed dream had nothing to do with the lobby of the Festival Hall or the drains of the Hayward Gallery: he was on to something much bigger — a humane space for humanity to relish. Maybe Gerry Robinson at the Arts Council doesn't understand that. Maybe he'd rather folks stayed at home and watched Granada Gold. But the first mayor of the new London will be elected and paid to understand. This is his patch: this is what he's for.

Please Mr Blair, plead in Israel today for nuclear whistleblower Mordechai Vananu

A task for Tony

Susannah York

TONY BLAIR is at a party. This week sees the 50th anniversary celebrations of the state of Israel. But amid the popping of champagne corks and pulling of crackers, might there be a crumb of birthday cake for Mordechai Vanunu? Vanunu is younger than Israel by seven years, and he has spent more than a quarter of his life in solitary confinement.

A Moroccan Jew whose family settled in Israel when he was a child, he was sworn to secrecy when he started work as a junior technician in Dimona in 1977, Israel's covert nuclear plant whose programme he'd been led to believe was civil.

By 1985, deeply troubled by the discovery of Israel's military objectives and size of her nuclear arsenal, he fled the country of his adoption, gravitating to Australia where he converted to Christianity.

Six months later he contacted the Sunday Times who flew him to London where he showed them photographs and diagrams of the Dimona nuclear plant.

From his information (for which, contrary to Israel's official line, he received no payment) British physicists deduced that Israel had stockpiled up to 200 warheads, making her the world's sixth largest nuclear power.

As the story broke, Mossad caught up with him; "Cindy", a young Mossad agent posing as a student, sprang a honey-trap, luring Vanunu to Rome. International law was broken there when Israel's secret service seized him, drugged him, and shipped him by crate to Israel. He was tried in camera for treason and espionage, and sentenced to 18 years.

Over a year ago he wrote to me: "Prison is a zoo for human beings. I am the last one who could live behind closed doors. I loved the freedom to be out, to see people, to feel nature. I felt in part of my mind, 'I cannot live like this'. But it's the animal in a human that teaches him to survive, he learns."

Incarcerated round the clock in a neon-lit 2-metre by 3-metre cell except for one hour's lonely exercise in the prison yard, and with no human intercourse beyond a half-hourly visit behind bars every two weeks from his brother, he has suffered terrible trauma, perhaps permanent psychological damage: but he has always refused to forswear his action or his beliefs.

> He has suffered terrible trauma and perhaps permanent damage

I became a trustee of the campaign to free Vanunu six years ago (others include Julie Christie, Harold Pinter and Bruce Kent), and have gone on three subsequent delegations to Israel. In 1994 we were received by President Weizman, to no avail, but finally broke the taboo that had surrounded his name in Israel. Two years ago we staged an international conference in Tel Aviv chaired by Prof Joseph Rotblat, which drew together a wonderfully diverse array of minds and voices for Vanunu. For while there is no doubt Vanunu broke a secrecy pledge and state law, like whistleblowers Daniel Ellsberg (who spoke at the conference) and the British civil servant Clive Ponting, he believes that moral considerations must sometimes outweigh the immediate political concerns of a government, even one potentially at war.

This March, having served 12 years and due for parole, Vanunu was released from solitary confinement. This year also he was formally adopted by an American Christian couple Nick and Mary Eloff of Minnesota in accordance with US law. But he is still in prison.

In this, the month of his parole review as well as of Israel's celebrations, when President Weizman has declared his intention of granting many extra amnesties, a clemency appeal has been signed by over 600 international politicians, scientists, writers, artists, human rights activists, Nobel Laureates (including Hans Bethe, Dario Fo, and Joseph Rotblat) as well as US and British rabbis, and such churchmen as Archbishop Desmond Tutu. There are over 18,000 other signatories, among them many ordinary Israeli citizens.

Today, with Lord Avebury and Jeremy Corbyn, vice-chairmen of the parliamentary human rights group, I hope to present the appeal to the Israeli president. It asks that Mordechai Vanunu be granted final and complete release from his imprisonment.

There are many items already on Mr Blair's agenda. Might he also raise the issue of Vanunu with Mr Netanyahu?

Susannah York is currently appearing in Camino Real at the Young Vic, and Hamlet at the Barbican. The Vanunu campaign is c/o 89 Borough High St, London SE1 1NL

هكذا من الاصل

هكذا من الاصل

The Guardian
Monday April 20 1998
Edition Number 47153
119 Farringdon Road, London EC1R 3ER
Fax No. 0171-837 4530
E-mail: letters@guardian.co.uk
Website: http://www.guardian.co.uk

A new sort of Unionism

The mindsets mutate

THE ULSTER Unionists have had a bad press down the years, often with good reason. Throughout the world, their image is poor, a mixture of intransigence and bigotry, the party of No Surrender. Few outside Northern Ireland distinguish between the varying strands of Unionism, which has come to be epitomised down the years by the fundamentalist approach of Ian Paisley. International sympathy has rested mainly with the nationalist Catholic community, the victims of sectarianism and discrimination over decades.

A change took place at the weekend, more significant than has yet been realised, the biggest since the Ulster Unionist Party was founded early this century. The vote of its ruling council was more than just a vote of confidence in their leader David Trimble, who had negotiated the political settlement at Stormont: it was a break with the party's inglorious past. Throughout their history, the Ulster Unionists have defined themselves in a solely negative way: total opposition to involvement with the Irish Republic. The weekend vote was for a settlement which will see Unionists actively engage with ministers from Dublin. It was a vote for a more mature Unionism, for new-style relationships throughout the British Isles.

The transformation will not be easy. The Unionist community is divided. Mr Paisley's rival but smaller Democratic Unionist Party will campaign ferociously against, and Mr Trimble's own party is split with half his MPs opposed to the settlement. He himself can be volatile, and when necessary can put on the Orange cloak of hardline Unionism. He was rightly pilloried for his behaviour in the Orange stand-off at Drumcree three years ago. But he deserves thanks today not only for the way he handled the negotiations but for decisively carrying his party with him. If the vote had been no, and members had taken shelter in the old bastion mentality, the peace process would effectively have been over.

Sinn Fein's annual conference in Dublin ended yesterday without the same decisiveness being displayed. While it would help if it were to back the settlement, this is not so crucial: Sinn Fein agreeing to adopt a neutral or low-profile approach to the referendum rather than campaigning against should be enough to ensure its success. More important by far is for Sinn Fein, as is expected, to change its constitution to allow candidates to take seats in the new Assembly, drawing them further into the democratic process.

If peace is to be achieved in Northern Ireland, it will need not only new political mechanisms but a complete overhaul in attitudes. The case is often made for Protestants to acknowledge and respect the traditions of the nationalist community. Less often heard is the case for the nationalist community giving equal respect to the Protestant tradition. Too often it concentrates on portraying the Unionists as neanderthal, ignoring the great writers, scientists and engineers that the Protestant culture has produced. Both sides will have to learn to be less selective in their history, and instead accept — and hopefully in time take pride in — both traditions.

Cheap release

But China may still change

WANG DAN is the second Chinese dissident to be sent into exile "on medical parole" within the last few months, and for the same cynical reason. The release of Wei Jingsheng last November came soon after President Jiang Zemin's successful visit to the US. Mr Wang's departure comes two months ahead of Bill Clinton's visit to China — which needs to be a success too. In both cases, the Chinese authorities grant medical parole having denied for years that there was any problem with the prisoner's health. They also insist not just that he should go abroad but that he should head for the US. The linkage with diplomatic interest seems transparent.

Yet beyond the immediate advantage to those involved — even the bravest endurance has its limits — may there not be some more general benefit? Both the US and the EU (led by Britain) argue that such cases reflect a relaxation in Beijing's attitude towards human rights, and that this justifies their own softer approach towards China. The list of political dissidents presented to Beijing (for example by Robin Cook when he visited there in January) is a short one. By that standard a reduction of one or two appears significant — though it looks pathetic compared to Amnesty's list of many hundreds. The release of Mr Wei and of Mr Wang may have upset some hardliners in Beijing, and could strengthen the hand of liberals who would like to go further. There is nothing wrong with an incremental approach — but only if there is reasonable hope that it will produce results.

Some evidence is emerging now of a more tolerant attitude towards political debate under the post-Deng Xiaoping leadership. Though recent national congresses of the Party and the government failed to broach at all seriously the subject of political reform, intellectuals close to the establishment are beginning to discuss it. The argument is more cautious than in the late 1980s, focusing on the reform of political "structures" rather than on implementing the basic rights enshrined — and ignored — in the constitution. But to suggest that "human rights is a civil right" or that "economic reform depends on political reform" is a significant signal: even the official Chinese news agency has floated similar ideas.

These tentative new shoots of liberal thinking will not push up any concrete in Tiananmen Square, and Beijing needs to do a huge amount more to overcome cynicism. But China does not stand still and a new generation of leaders is beginning to emerge. Let us give the benefit of the doubt, but without selling Western complaisance too cheaply. How many more political prisoners will walk free before Tony Blair goes to Beijing in October?

Letters to the Editor

Nailing the hypocrites

TO TREAT refugees, "bogus" or "genuine", as we treat criminals is unacceptable whether or not it breaches European conventions (Group 4 clings to its asylum role, April 17). As a regular visitor of detainees at *Campsfield Detention Centre* I befriended an Algerian who had been imprisoned for four and a half years; three years in Algeria and a further 18 months in Britain. Robin Cook regularly expresses concern about human rights abuses all over the world. In the meantime, the rights of refugees in this country are blatantly disregarded.
Nick Frayn.
Manchester.

THE sheer effrontery of the Catholic Church over the work of Eric Gill is beyond belief (Unholy row over artist, April 14). Whereas no decent human condones incest, to condemn Gill's excellent, sensitive work is beyond hypocrisy. Every week from somewhere in the world we read of the sexual abuse perpetrated by the Christian priesthood, particularly the Roman Catholic priesthood.
Michael Poynder.
Corfe Castle, Dorset.

NOW that the Reds of Manchester have stumbled so remarkably, can I be the first Newcastle fan to urge that clubs finishing second in the English Premiership should be barred from the European Champions' League?
Ian Wood.
Kirk Ireton,
Derbyshire.

WHAT Anthony O'Hear doesn't realise is that there are two Diana Spencers (Right-wing professor brings Diana to book, April 17). One was a Sloane bimbo with serious eating disorders, a string of lovers and a figure of fun for the press. The other is the blessed Diana who shines above us all. The first was an easy target but woebetide anyone who attacks the other.
Ian Wright.
Canterbury.

Why Pol Pot's legacy lives on

IT SHOULD be remembered that the secret US bombing of Cambodia in the late 1960s and early 1970s provided the then obscure Khmer Rouge with the necessary support from the rural population to obtain power (Death of a tyrant, April 17). The bombing killed over 500,000 Cambodian civilians, about a third as many people as Pol Pot. It is ironic that one of the chief architects of the secret bombing, Henry Kissinger, has been extensively interviewed about Pol Pot in recent days but has largely escaped the condemnation he deserves for his role in Cambodia's tragic history.

When the Khmer Rouge retreated to the Thai-Cambodia border in 1979, they were supported by, among others, the governments of the US, the United Kingdom and Thailand. By the late 1980s, in addition to providing arms, the Thai military and top level politicians were facilitating an extensive trade in timber and gems with the Khmer Rouge.

The journalists who were driven by four-wheel drive from Chongsa-ngam pass to view Pol Pot's body to write stories about the "death of the world's most evil man" evidently did not question where the four-wheel drive and fuel came from. It is certain that the fuel came from Thailand and probable that it was supplied from the PTT petrol station at nearby Lalom junction, which is just one of the Thai-based businesses owned by new Khmer Rouge chief, "the butcher" Ta Mok.

Whilst Thailand has, under pressure, reduced its support to the Khmer Rouge, the rump of this organisation would be finished in days if they were unable to obtain supplies from across the border. It is essential that the ban on the cross-border timber trade remains in place.
Patrick Alley.
Director, Global Witness,
London.

THE European Union is donating $11million to fund elections in Cambodia in July — provided that the elections are likely to be "reasonably free and fair". But the ballot-counting mechanism as presently designed is fundamentally flawed. According to a recent report in the Phnom Penh Post (the leading English language newspaper in Cambodia), all the votes are likely to be counted at each of the 17,000 polling stations in the villages where they are cast. One observer commented: "It should take village chiefs all of five minutes to work out who voted against the CPP" (the ruling Cambodian People's Party).

And presumably not much longer to organise local gangs to punish those concerned. Village chiefs are government functionaries; that means most are now CPP supporters. And whether or not the CPP disbands its armed militias as promised, village chiefs will still be able to mobilise their members.

The system of counting ballots at such extremely local level is similar to that used in Indonesia, where it has returned the same dictator to power, in internationally accepted "democratic" disguise, for 35 years.

The real issue for Cambodia is not who wins this July, since everyone already knows who will still be in power in August. The climate of intimidation is now so well established that whatever vote counting system is used, people will still not believe the ballot is genuinely secret this time. The real issue therefore is not these elections, but rather those to come, in 2003 and 2008.
Colin Alfred.
London.

YOUR front page on Friday was dominated by two stories. The death of Pol Pot — "His hair is dyed and the room smells of formaldehyde" and, given only slightly less space, the travails of Norman-/Norma the cross-dressing line dancer — ". . . he transformed himself into Norma with a frilly blouse, short skirt, gold tights and high heels" (Hoedown showdown as Norman changes to Norma, April 17).

Apparently, Norman's wife doesn't mind as long as he doesn't do it too often and keeps it under control. Gosh, I thought, if only Mrs Pot had exercised the same gentle restraint. Old Pol wouldn't have ended up as the Satan of the steaming jungle (as your reporter puts it), and (judging by your photograph) looking suspiciously like Nigel Kennedy after a heavy session on the Bruch No 1.

History would have been so very different.
Henry Haigh.
London.

Treating GPs

RECRUITMENT to general practice can be enhanced if some rules and regulations are changed (Top doctor warns of 'time bomb' shortage of GPs, April 18). I am a 60-year-old GP practising from a purpose-built surgery in Clacton on Sea in Essex. For night duty, we are covered by a deputising service, but there is often a shortage of cover so I still need to be second on call. Inability to find sufficient cover may lead to a closure of the deputising agency or to an increase in cost — which could force me to abandon this arrangement. Cutting the 24-hour responsibity to 16 hours, finishing at 11pm, would reverse the trend of poor recruitment to general practice. And so would cutting down on bureaucracy. Recently I recruited a friend to general practice, a highly qualified and experienced doctor. He worked with me as a GP registrar for six months but left for a hospital job because of the unnecessary bureaucracy of the vocational training scheme with its inflexible rules and regulations.

Asking an experienced doctor to make a video of his consultation proves nothing except whether he is a good actor.
Dr Zuhair Fityan.
Clacton,
Essex.

An inquiry

READING that the driver in the Southall rail crash has been charged with manslaughter (April 18) reminded me of an apparently ridiculous aspect of the affair, which I have never seen explained: why was an InterCity 125, travelling at 100mph, supposed to give way to an empty goods train trundling through at a snail's pace? Who decided this should be the case? Who set the signal and the points?

Can we assume, if the driver is found not guilty and blame has to be given, that some faceless manager from Railtrack will be in the dock for "managing" this absurd situation? I doubt it somehow.
Bev Town.
Wallington.

Our right to know

RICHARD Norton-Taylor argues that exemptions are a key flaw in the government's freedom of information proposals (Secrets and files, April 13). Two such exemptions go to the heart of the relationship between the individual and the state, and should therefore be of particular concern to all who care about civil rights and freedoms. The other exempts anything concerning law enforcement.

It cannot realistically be argued that every piece of paper belonging to the Secret Services should be disclosed to the public. But there will be many documents which can be disclosed without damaging "national security" or putting people at risk, and which are of legitimate public interest. The documents say, relating to the surveillance of Hariet Harman whilst she worked for Liberty, for example, could be disclosed to her — and to us — without any problems. Such examples illustrate the need to use the serious harm test for disclosure which will be used for other organisations: a blanket denial of documents in addition to this safeguard is unnecessary and unjustified.

The same principle must apply for the law enforcement exemption. Clearly, giving Mr Big access to his file at the same time as keeping him under surveillance would be crazy — though of course he would be foolish to go to Scotland Yard to ask for it. But what if Liberty wanted to see the police guidelines on the use of CS spray or the statistics for the Animal Rights National Index? Will the law enforcement exemption prevent access even though the disclosure will not cause any harm?
John Wadham,
Director, Liberty,
London.

Please include a full postal address. We do not publish letters when only an e-mail or truncated postal address is supplied. We may edit letters.
The Country Diary is on Page 13

In vino veritas — or the nearest approximation to it

IT WAS with a feeling of *déja vu* that I read Matthew Engel's column (Organic whine, April 18). I react in exactly the same way as his wife (instant headache) on drinking the average glass of wine. This has led to embarrassment and social ostracism as most meals with friends include cheap bottles of plonk. I have solved the dilemma by buying more expensive bottles for my own celebrations and drinking brandy in public.

The only supermarket I have found that stocks organic wine is Safeway. They stock three, the cheapest being under its own label, a French table wine at a mere £3.99. I have enquired in other supermarkets and off-licences, only to be met with blank stares.

Most people assume that the headache comes from over-indulgence, not a chemical reaction.
Tricia Cassel-Gerard.
Cullompton,
Devon.

MATTHEW Engel is very confused about organic wine. "Organic" refers to the production of the grapes, not the wine. Feeling well or otherwise after a night out is more to do with wine, type, alcoholic strength and the food you consume with it. For example, the liver finds it easier to cope with a light white wine and food to match than a 14 per cent wine and a T-bone steak.

Also, with no preservative at all, the wine immediately turns brown (oxidation) and even the most expensive and carefully made contains *some* sulphur dioxide.

I recommend a dry English or Cornish wine with some Cornish seafood and plenty of Cornish spring water if your aim is to avoid a headache.
Bob Lindo.
Camel Valley Vineyard,
Bodmin, Cornwall.

MATTHEW Engel describes the substance sulphur dioxide, which is put in wine as a preservative, as the stuff in chemistry labs that smells of rotten eggs. That is actually hydrogen sulphide. Sulphur dioxide is the stuff that makes rain acid, and kills fish and trees in Scandinavia.
Jeremy Miles.
Derby.

MATTHEW Engel's snide remarks about "tasting the wine while the waiter stands over you" shows a complete misunderstanding of the purpose of this action.
Giles Hibbert.
Chapel-en-le-Frith,
High Peak.

AS AN enthusiastic wine drinker but definitely not a wine-pseud, I value the chance of sampling the wine simply to discover whether or not the bottle is corked.
Basil Howitt.
Manchester.

GRD09

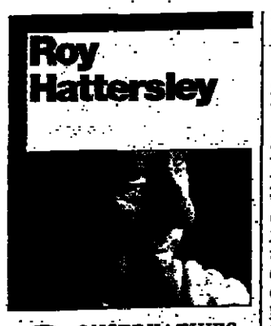
BT's ISDN lines can send a document to your customers' computers in seconds, so there are no more broken promises.

Connect now from only £99.
Freefone 0800 800 800
or visit www.isdn.bt.com

Why not change the way we work? BT

Offer ends 30.06.98 on lines installed by 31.07.98. Example: Connection to BT's ISDN2 start-up package costs £99 (ex VAT). Line rental and minimum contract periods apply.

Endpiece: A word, William



Roy Hattersley

CONSERVATIVES everywhere will rejoice to learn that independent television is still prepared to broadcast missing person appeals — brief cries of fear and anguish from loved ones who, although rejected and deserted, ask only for reassurance that the absentee is safe and well. It seems the only hope left of locating Andrew Mackay — golfer, sometime car salesman, Member of Parliament for Berkshire East and (when last seen) Shadow Secretary of State for Northern Ireland. In the 10 days since the Stormont Agreement brought at least the prospect of peace to the province, the Conservative Party spokesman on the subject has said not a word.

Tory commentators have linked Mr Mackay's silence with William Hague's undoubted need to shuffle his Shadow Cabinet. The connection is clear enough and I am perfectly prepared to believe that the opposition's Northern Ireland spokesman has not expressed an opinion on the Agreement because he does not have an opinion to express. He was not appointed to the front bench because he was bursting with new ideas or in the knowledge that he would soon set the country alight with his passionate eloquence. His role is to reassure boneheads with BMWs and neanderthal opinions that they are still highly valued in William Hague's party.

Mr Mackay has been promoted far beyond his ability in the name of balance — the last refuge of insecure politicians. The nervously ineffectual Stephen Durrell still sits in the shadow cabinet to prove that the European wing of the Tory Party has a voice in its highest councils and Michael Howard remains Shadow Foreign Secretary to confirm that the leadership will not listen to what the Europeans have to say. Durrell and Howard were not the worst of Mr Hague's appointments. Sir Norman Fowler is hardly symbolic of the "New Start" that the Tory broadcast promised. Like Cecil Parkinson he has returned from the dead in order to convince the ambitious pretenders that they have not long to wait. Choosing them protected Mr Hague from making real choices. Both men are incipient vacancies.

The Conservative front bench — certainly the weakest since the war — confirms the insecurity of William Hague's position. No party leader with real self-confidence would have asked Brian Mawhinney to display his lack of charm and talent for another year. All that really concerns Mr Hague is keeping what is left of the Tory party in one piece — which is why I suspect that he applauds, rather than rejects, Mr Mackay's extraordinary silence. Had he wanted his spokesman to speak, he could have put a piece of paper in his hand and, assuming the statement did not contain too many complicated ideas, the Shadow Secretary of State would have read it perfectly competently.

The theory that Mr Hague actually wants Andrew Mackay to say nothing is reinforced by the fact that he has said so little himself. An assiduous search of this paper's library reveals only one report of his views on the Stormont Agreement. Speaking to the Daily Record, the Tories' choice of champion announced: "It's an historic moment and I'm delighted that all the hitches were overcome. It's a chance to open an new chapter and give up violence." So there will be no Pullitzer Prize for Mr Hague this year. And, unless he changes his ways, there will be very little chance of his looking like a real leader of the opposition. The Stormont Agreement was the most important constitutional development in Northern Ireland since the war. One way or another, what used to be called the Conservative and Unionist Party should have had something to say about its content.

Two Tories did congratulate "all those who signed the Good Friday agreement" and go on to "urge the people of Northern Ireland to endorse it overwhelmingly in the referendum in May". They were Lord Cranbourn — who, like all Cecils, seems "not to give a damn" when rebuked for stepping out of party line — and Patrick Mayhew who was Secretary of State when the most recent phase of the peace process began. An explanation of why Mr Hague himself did not give the deal an equal robust endorsement — and, crucially, call for its support by Northern Ireland voters — is to be found in the reported opinions of two other Conservatives. David Wilshire and Andrew Hunter, both Tory MPs, have both denounced the Agreement and hinted that they will campaign against it during the referendum campaign. The leader of the opposition is interested in peace within the Conservative Party.

It all goes to show that, poetically speaking, he is a slow learner. Does he really believe that Tony Blair would have enjoyed a year of almost unremitting triumph if he had tried to play both ends of the Labour Party against the middle? Writing as a persecuted minority, I know from personal experience that the Prime Minister's success is largely the result of imposing his will on those he leads. Failing to speak clearly on the great issues of the day is not even good party politics. It inspires nothing but contempt among the dissidents whom it aims to placate. And the country at large is confirmed in the view that the vacillating leader does not possess the steel that is essential to a good government.

The damage that nine days of timidity has done to William Hague's reputation is not in doubt. But 8 per cent of the country already knows that he is not a credible alternative prime minister. I, at least, will not complain if the total increases. The real problem is the damage his reticence does to the peace process. If — as he half said to the Daily Record — he supports the Stormont Agreement he ought to throw his weight behind David Trimble and not allow Ian Paisley to whisper that the Conservative leadership still had its doubts.

The next stage of the process must be a massive vote for peace. Unless William Hague does his best to maximise the majority, he might as well spend the next four years playing golf with Andrew Mackay.

Denis Howell . . . the British sporting community is divided into two groups: 'Those who think that Denis Howell was the best Minister of Sport we ever had, and those who think that he still has the job'

Lord Howell

Minister of the match

DENIS Howell, who has died of a heart attack, aged 74, was the archetypal man from Birmingham and his predominant characteristic — the self-confidence that comes from absolute certainty — was the hallmark of a true Brummie. On that self-confidence all his other virtues — courage, determination and loyalty — were built.

So were the qualities that antagonised his enemies. Howell did not find it easy even to consider the possibility that he might be wrong. As a result, he was an ideal friend, a doughty opponent and a formidable politician.

He was born in Lozells, a district which he described as the "back yard of Birmingham", because the terraced houses and the factories stood cheek-by-jowl. Political life began in 1937 when, as a 13-year-old, he went with his father to a meeting during the by-election which followed the death of Sir Austen Chamberlain. He wrote that he was "hooked on politics" from that moment onwards.

Perhaps he was even hooked on the Labour candidate — Richard Crossman. If so, the infatuation did not last. Throughout his years in the House of Commons (1955-59 and 1961-92) Denis Howell was a passionate opponent of the Labour left. In the press conference that opened Labour's 1966 election campaign in Birmingham, Roy Jenkins — hardly an extremist — described Denis Howell as "excessively moderate".

It was not only the political experience of those early days that left its permanent mark on Howell's temperament. To the end he talked with immense affection about his Birmingham origins. It is almost impossible to imagine him representing any other place in parliament. And it was in the city that he prepared for what was probably the longest front bench career — government and opposition — in House of Commons history.

A clerk by profession, he became deeply involved in what was then the Clerical Workers Union — eventually becoming president of APEX after the CWU merged and expanded. A born city father, he represented St Paul's ward on the city council for six years and spoke, in true Birmingham tradition, of following in the footsteps of Joseph Chamberlain — a different political party, but similar views on municipal enterprise and the importance of the Second City.

From 1955, he represented the All Saints division in parliament, losing during the 1959 general election Midlands slaughter which followed the years when Britain "never had it so good". He was back 18 months later as Member for Small Heath, which he represented for 31 years. During his early years in parliament, Denis Howell was an out-and-out supporter of the then Labour leader Hugh Gaitskell. Indeed, during his brief absence from the Commons in 1960, he was organiser of the Campaign for Democratic Socialism which overturned the unilateralist vote against which Gaitskell promised "to fight, fight and fight again".

He was never an admirer of Harold Wilson. But, in 1964, with the Labour victory, Wilson had the good sense to put him in the government as the first Minister of Sport. Ten years later he enjoyed a transitory fame as "the rainmaker" — when, as soon as he was asked to deal with problems that followed the drought, Britain endured its heaviest rain for 20 years. But it is as Minister of Sport that he will be remembered with greatest admiration and affection. Almost 20 years after he gave up the job, one of his successors said that the British sporting community was divided into two groups, "those who think that Denis Howell was the best Minister of Sport we ever had, and those who think that he still has the job".

Sport was — after politics — his great love. He grew up with a passion for cricket and association football and it was his great pride that by the end of his life he was vice-president of both Aston Villa and Warwickshire County Cricket Club. But, during his years as sports minister, he made himself an expert on every sort of exotic game and pastime. More important, he applied himself to the task with the aggressive authority of the born referee.

Referee Denis Howell was. And before his ministerial years he was a well-known — and strangely popular — figure in first division grounds all over England. The referee's temperament remained until the end. Thirty years after he had blown his last full-time whistle, he maintained a referee's view of the game. Sitting next to him at a match was a unique experience. Others would talk of the skill of the players and the run of the game and urge on their favourite team. Denis Howell would comment on the competence of the referee and complain if he was not keeping up with the play. Referees, in his judgment, were not what they used to be.

Denis Howell was a devoted family man. Some of his closest friends believed that he never quite recovered from the death of his son David, killed in a car crash at the age of 21. (Howell is survived by his wife Brenda, two other sons and a daughter.)

But after that, although the ministerial days were over — thanks to the wishes of the electorate, rather than the judgment of party leaders — Denis Howell threw himself into public work on behalf of sport and Birmingham. He was never so happy as when his two great affections coincided. He led Birmingham's bid to host the Olympic Games. He came back from the meeting at which it was turned down utterly convinced that justice had not been done. It was not within his power to believe that any other city could have done the job better.

He was tough — as any politician brought up in Birmingham local government is bound to be. But although his character did not contain an ounce of sentiment, there was a softness about him which made him invariably sympathetic about the foibles of his friends and to the weakness of others. His natural generosity he attributed to his Christian faith, which he held with unswerving although unostentatious conviction. It was he said, the basis of his socialist belief and the principle on which his private life was founded. Private life often had to make way for public duty.

But in both elements of his existence Denis Howell — from the back streets of Birmingham to the House of Lords — remained the quintessential Brummie. The moment of greatest pride was, almost certainly, when he became a Freeman of the City. Not for nothing did he call his autobiography *Made in Birmingham*.

Roy Hattersley

Denis Herbert Howell, politician, born September 4, 1923; died April 19, 1998

Willi Guttsman

Learning in the library and at the kitchen table

WILLI Guttsman, who has died aged 77, combined work as a librarian at the London School of Economics with research on political systems and the political process. The result was a classic, his 1963 study, *The British Political Elite*.

Willi escaped from Berlin to Britain in 1938, only to be deported to Australia as a suspect enemy alien. He then picked potatoes in Scotland, where he met his wife Valerie, a Slovak escapee.

In 1962, he went to Norwich as the founding librarian of the new University of East Anglia, and created a superb library, both as a building and as a research collection. And the Guttsmans threw themselves into the life of Norwich, helping to create a fusion of university and city élites.

His desire "to get things right" meant that he was not always a favourite among administrators. The UEA library's architect, Denys Lasdun, has described him as the most exacting of clients. He bemused junior librarians by censoring pen holders at the issue desk because they did not conform to the library's aesthetic. But his was a dynamic vision of the role of the university library. It encompassed the sponsorship of exhibitions, often hung personally by Willi, at which many young students purchased their first modern prints. In the heady atmosphere of the 1960s, the creation of a new university was not so much a job as a mission.

He combined this with an endearingly unselfconscious individuality: the rickety bicycle; the indecipherable hand; the predilection for early morning swims in the chill waters of the city's open-air pool. There was also humanity. Willi was never an establishment figure. His métier was the kitchen table transformed into seminar table, where bright young things gathered from a broad mix of backgrounds.

Willi's life embodied a paradox — and a resolution to that paradox. The strong German accent, the interest in ideas, modern art and architecture projected an image of continental intellectualism, but yet Willi saw himself as commitedly British. He lost both parents in Nazi camps and for a time he largely rejected his German inheritance. It was this I think, which led him sometimes to affect not to understand German, and when addressed in German by bilingual interlocutors always to reply in English.

Yet he did come to terms with his background and his *The German Social Democratic Party, 1875-1933: from Ghetto to Government* (1981) was a study of an early model of a modern mass party. That book contains sections on the *kultur* of the SPD, and later, with *Art for the Workers* (1997), he combined his expertise in political science with his developing interest in modern art. That last work explores the relationship between ideology and the visual arts in Weimar Germany through an examination of the popular cultural institutions created by the post-1890 German labour movement.

His life created enduring monuments and generated the affection and respect of a diverse range of friends. Yet even towards the end of it, this essentially diffident man seemed not fully to comprehend the scale of his achievement.

Victor Morgan

Willi Guttsman, librarian and scholar, born August 23, 1920; died February 13, 1998

Birthdays

Gro Harlem Brundtland, director-general, World Health Organisation, 59; **Angela Christian**, jazz singer, 50; **Sebastian Faulks**, author, 45; **Graeme Fowler**, cricketer, 41; **John Eliot Gardiner**, choirmaster and baroque conductor, 55; **Mauricio Gugelmin**, racing driver, 35; **Louise Jameson**, actress, 47; **Andrew Jaspan**, managing director, The Big Issue, 46; **Sir Antony Jay**, author, 68; **Sir Eddie Kulukundis**, impresario, shipowner, 66; **Jessica Lange**, actress, 49; **Ryan O'Neal**, actor, 57; **Leslie Phillips**, actor, 74; **Sir John Quicke**, agriculturist, 76; **Christopher Robinson**, organist, 62; **Peter Snow**, broadcaster, 60; **Gerry Steinberg**, Labour MP, 53; **Luther Vandross**, singer, 47; **Rachel Whitehead**, sculptor, 35.

Jamie McCullough

The wood for the trees

JAMIE McCullough, who has died of a lung infection aged 53, combined artistic flair with technical knowledge and a curiosity about science. These came together in constructions like Hooky Bridge, his causeway of living willows across woodland ponds near Harrogate.

This modest, but beautifully conceived project was also practical, and extremely popular locally. It reached the final three in the 1996 National Art Collections Fund award for excellence in the arts. McCullough was a highly original, inventive craftsman. His life mirrored his distinctive artwork. An Old Etonian, leaving the school with A-levels in physics and chemistry, he became a jobbing artist, enjoying the company of fellow furniture-makers in London's Portobello Road and the enthusiasm of many small-scale environmental campaigners across the country.

A gentle and thoughtful man, he mixed instinctively, which accounts somewhat for the catholic nature of his commissioners. While part of his mind was on a community project like Meanwhile Gardens — the reclaiming of urban wasteland round a former west London squat — another was preparing the intricacies of Luxmoore's Bridge, built to connect Eton's chapel with a "secret" garden to mark the College's 500th anniversary.

Jamie McCullough at Hooky Bridge, Harrogate, his causeway of living willow trees PHOTOGRAPH: CHARLES KNIGHT

Other major works include Beginners' Way in Exeter, a landscaped trail with 22 artworks, a unique conservatory for the King's Fund in Cavendish Square, London, and decorated piers for the M74 bridge over the Esk. He also produced a sportsdome in the United States, a carved House of Birds for the Black Country Trail and a large number of small, personal carvings for admirers and friends.

McCullough's dexterity was grounded solidly in a knowledge of how and why solid materials behave, but was lifted into an extra dimension by his love of scientific speculation. His most recent job, in an irregular series of teaching and academic spells, was an engineering research fellowship at Strathclyde university, examining the possibility of artificial sea islands.

Aware of the physical properties of all the potential components, McCullough was working at the time of his death on 15 possible ways of using fibre optics to bring seabed nutrients to the surface to develop as floating "fish ranches". He had also attracted scientific attention to his related work on purifying groundwater polluted by mining.

This took him to County Durham, where he settled in a village near the cathedral city. His scientific work is to be pursued by colleagues, while the element of "community maintenance" built into his artworks — Hooky Bridge has an annual festival of pruning, willow-laying and extending of length — is likely to ensure that they, too, remain alive.

Martin Wainwright

Jamie McCullough, artist and engineer, born November 5, 1945; died April 4, 1998

A Country Diary

BUXTON: When I was a child there were two things that always denoted spring in this climatically harsh town. The lesser signal was the sudden increase in daylight when the clocks went forward. But the feature which really symbolised winter's end was the sound of lapwings. As the males perform their flight displays, they synchronise with those extraordinary looping parabolas one of the most beautiful and evocative songs of upland Britain.

Peweep, peeweet, peeseweep, teewheep — these are just some of the old names by which the bird was known and which convey the basic structure of the song. Before I got up and after school, even as darkness fell, I could hear some variation of it coming in through the window with the rushing sound of the brook.

It is comforting to find that a quarter of a century later the lapwings are still singing in Buxton. In fact, my last systematic count of their nests in 1985 indicate that they have slightly increased. Thirteen years ago there were five pairs in the fields behind our family house. This year there are six. None was more than 200 metres from its neighbour and each contained four exquisite pyriform eggs, coloured pale khaki and irregularly scribbled with chocolate blotches, all arranged with their pointed ends inwards.

The constancy of this population is a measure of the bird's remarkable resilience. Lapwings are still our most numerous breeding wader, despite the fact that agricultural intensification, especially increased use of insecticides and winter-sown cereals, has evicted them from many parts of lowland England. In Buxton, they have to endure the farmer liming his fields, usually at the most inappropriate moment. This spring, however, the problem has been climatic. Overnight the fields were blanketed with snow and three lapwings had abandoned their nests by morning. Fortunately, they are well used to these setbacks and will probably nest again when warmer weather returns.

MARK COCKER

Mark Cocker's latest book, Rivers of Blood, Rivers of Gold: Europe's Conflict with Tribal Peoples (Jonathan Cape) is published on April 30.

Death Notices

BRABEN, (Rtd) James Charles MBE, loving husband of the late Lily Braben, father of Pat, Enid and Lois, grandfather of Andrew, Mathew, Carolyn and Joanna, great-grandfather of Max. Died peacefully on 15th April at St. Peter's Hospital, Chertsey, aged 91. Funeral at 12.30pm on Friday 24th April at St. Peter's Church, Burwood Road, Hersham, Surrey, followed by burial at Burwale Cemetery, Burwood Road, Hersham and afterwards at The Mount, St. John's Hill, Woking. Enquiries, Flowers to /from Lodge Bros., Weybridge 01932 854756. Donations to The Mount payable to Stokefield Amenity Fund, c/o Lodge Bros., 36 High Street, Weybridge KT13 8AB.

ITo place your announcement telephone 0171 713 4567 or fax 0171 713 4129 between 9am and 3pm Mon-Fri.

233MHz Windows '98 PC

Just £699 Plus VAT

Pay Nothing Until 1999
INTEREST FREE CREDIT
on Win98PC S models only

233M
Win98PC™
- 233MHz Intel Pentium® processor with MMX technology
- 32Mb RAM
- 4.3Gb Ultra DMA-33 hard disk
- 24x MAX CD-ROM
- 2Mb Advanced Graphics
- 3D wavetable sound
- ATX mid-tower with all standard features
- 14" SVGA colour screen
- SF525 stereo speaker system
- 90 minute VHS video trainer
- 14 Day money back guarantee (excluding carriage)
- 100% millennium safe and fully Year 2000 compliant
- FREE £800 Software* bundle
- FREE 56K Modem
- FREE Windows 98 upgrade

Product codes 14" 543

£699 £821.33 inc. VAT

MONEY BACK GUARANTEE

233M-1 Model
£799 £938.83 inc VAT
As 233M above but with larger 15" screen, faster 32x CD-ROM drive, ATI 3D 4Mb graphics and IBM speech recognition (microphone optional extra).
Product codes 15" 549

233M-2 TV Model
£899 £1056.33 inc VAT
As 233M but with 64Mb RAM, 6.4Gb hard disk, PC-TV system with Teletext, Video capture, Videophone receive, IBM speech recognition (microphone optional extra), faster IBM 6x86MX PR233 (233MHz) processor with MMX, 4Mb graphics using system RAM, and larger 15" SVGA colour screen (17" optional)
Product codes 15" 554, 17" 564

233MHz Pentium
233MHz Intel Pentium processor with MMX Technology. Do not consider slower 200MHz models. Go for 233M-2 models for even better performance.

32Mb RAM
32Mb RAM for the best performance, 64Mb RAM on our 233M-2 models delivers better performance than even 266MHz 32Mb systems.

4.3Gb Hard Disk
Ultra fast 4.3Gb hard disk with even larger 6.4Gb included with 233M-2 models

FREE £800 Software
Over £800 top quality software* bundle including smartsuite 97 plus other leading programs with all systems

FREE Modem
Included with all models is the Rockwell 56K fax/data/Internet and voice modem with Flash upgradeability - the best!

FREE Windows 98
All systems come with free upgrade voucher to Windows 98 when it is released by Microsoft.

3 GREAT DEALS!

	233M	233M-1	233M-2
RAM	32Mb	32Mb	64Mb
Hard disk	4.3Gb	4.3Gb	6.4Gb
Screen	14"	15"	15" (or 17")
PC TV system	-	-	YES
Graphics	2Mb	4Mb	4Mb
Speech recognition	-	YES	YES
Videophone receive	-	-	YES
Relative performance	120	120	126

UNBELIEVABLE VALUE

47 UK Showrooms
Order direct or visit your local showroom
POWERHOUSE
Aylesbury, Bedford, Birmingham, Bristol, Cambridge, Cardiff, Chelmsford, Coventry, Doncaster, Derby, Exeter, Gateshead, Hedge End, Huddersfield, Hull, Ipswich, Kettering, Leicester, Liverpool, Manchester, Milton Keynes, Newcastle, Norwich, Peterborough, Plymouth, Portsmouth, Reading, Sheffield, Southampton, Southend, Stockton, Swindon, Telford, Warrington, Watford

Win98 PC™ 'S' Models
These include 5 top games (RRP £145), joystick, headset microphone and over 13 CD multimedia titles (RRP £325) for just £99 +VAT = £116.33 inc. VAT
Product codes 233M 14" 548 233M-1 15" 551, 233M-2 15" 555 17" 558

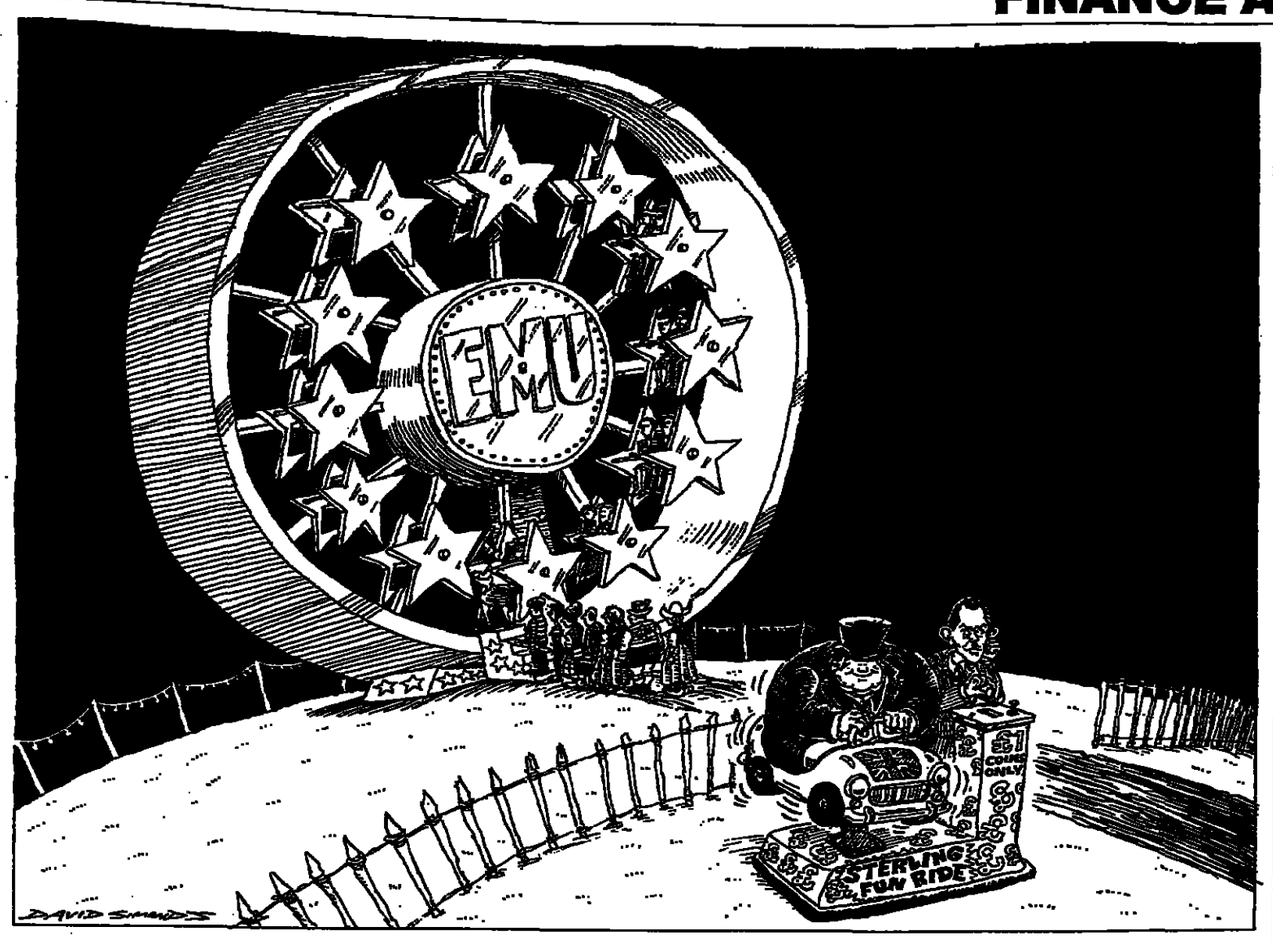
PAY NOTHING UNTIL 1999
Interest Free Credit
NO Deposit
NO Payments
NO Interest
Example: 233M Win98 PC S Model: Pay NO deposit and then nothing to pay for 6 months. After 6 months pay the Total price in cash price + [illegible] = [illegible] inc. VAT. APR 0% only if loan fully repaid by Jan 1999. Finance also available over longer period of 2.75 years at APR 23.9%. 10% deposit £99.83 and nothing to pay until Jan 1999 and then 34 monthly payments of £31.80. Total price £1242.05. Finance is subject to status. Written details are available on request.
0% APR

Freephone Time Now!
0800 771107
Sales Lines Open: Monday - Friday 8.30am-7.00pm, Saturday 9.00am-5.00pm.
Offers end 2nd May
TIME COMPUTER SYSTEMS

هكذا من الاصل

هكذا من الاصل

Britain's partners get ready for the euro while at home the Cabinet just dithers



Cowardice must not be the common currency

Mark Atkinson

LESS than a year on from the general election, it might seem premature to start thinking about the next one. But already the battle lines are visible.

The Tories have nailed their colours firmly to the mast by ruling out membership of the single currency for 10 years, a position which could command considerable public sympathy judging by the hostility to the euro indicated by opinion polls.

Against that, we have the Government's half-hearted support for the euro. Yes, it is in favour of European economic and monetary union in principle, but not yet.

Just when it would be ready to go in remains a mystery.

All we are told is that membership will be considered when the Government is satisfied that five economic tests have been passed. The decision will then be put to votes in Parliament and the country.

The Government's short hand for the policy is "prepare and decide". This is not really very different from the previous Government's policy of "wait and see".

Indeed, its main distinguishing feature lies in it being a position behind which the Cabinet seems able to unite. The policy falls short of the degree of clarity needed to persuade business to prepare for euro membership.

While there is still doubt about the timing of entry, no business is going to spend money on getting ready unless it absolutely has to.

It is also too vague to engage public debate. And yet that is exactly what is needed.

With eight months to go, EMU is no longer in doubt. It is highly unlikely to implode now, and it will have profound consequences for the UK whether or not the country joins.

On life outside the EMU zone the authorities are silent. All we hear from the Treasury and the Bank of England is what other countries should be doing to ensure EMU is a success, as if super-flexible Britain had nothing to worry about.

According to an unpublished study by Jerry Palmer, professor of communications at London Guildhall University, British press reporting in the years since 1995 has shown a significant shift away from a virtually exclusive focus on domestic political matters towards European political issues.

Prof Palmer believes this may be due in part to Labour's successful spinning of the EMU story away from our political shores.

The Government's EMU mantra is familiar: reform of Europe's capital, labour and product markets is needed to ensure there is sufficient flexibility to compensate for the loss of both monetary sovereignty and the exchange rate safety valve once inside EMU.

While that is probably true, the message has already been taken up by all countries concerned. Reform is under way, if slowly.

In research published earlier this month, JP Morgan, the US investment bank, points out the number of surprisingly innovative initiatives springing up across Europe as governments, corporations and unions attempt to promote jobs by working around the constraints of existing welfare systems.

These include moves to adjust working time to individual needs, the proliferation of temporary contracts and decentralised wage bargaining.

"If these developments gather pace, there is real hope that European performance can improve," says the bank. The danger is that the impending European upswing will mute the enthusiasm for reform.

MEANWHILE at home, the British public is kept in the dark about what will happen once EMU gets under way. The only official EMU publication is issued by the Bank of England and is aimed at the financial markets. The emphasis is on practicalities, not fundamentals.

It is certainly not the sort of publication that will be read by the average commuter.

Fortunately for Britain, EMU starts against a favourable macro-economic backdrop. Its influence will probably be benign. Inflation in Europe is low, budget deficits are coming down and the Continent is apparently on the verge of a sustained cyclical upswing.

Some of this European prosperity will rub off on the UK, given the trade links. But staying outside will not be a soft option. The pound may continue to swing wildy on the foreign exchanges, whether or not the Bank of England and the Treasury conduct stable monetary and fiscal policies, to the detriment of industry.

The City could lose out on the development of pan-European capital markets and inward investors may seek a base inside the euro-zone.

The UK will still have the benefits of a flexible monetary policy, rather than the one-size-fits-all interest rate regime that will prevail on the Continent. But is that a price worth paying for the potential loss of influence on a world currency rivalling the dollar?

Research published today for the Centre for Economic Policy Research comes up with some new estimates for the economic gains from the euro. As well as the efficiency savings from eliminating costly foreign exchange if the euro challenges the dollar's status as the international currency of choice the economic benefits could be large.

Authors Richard Portes and Helene Rey estimate that gains from Europe achieving reserve-currency status and the development of euro asset markets could be as much as 0.5 per cent of GDP annually, with a similar loss for the US and Japan.

Sooner or later the Government will have to engage with these issues rather than leaving them to academia, business and the City.

They deserve a wider audience in the interests of laying the groundwork for winning a referendum, whenever it is held.

WITHIN the majority of people against EMU there is probably a hard core of about 20 per cent or so who have thought about it deeply and don't much like the prospect of ditching the pound.

Their opinion is obviously valid and should be respected.

But public opinion is a malleable thing, as the events of 1975 showed when initial hostility to joining the European Community, as it was then, was turned around in favour of membership after a concerted effort by the Heath government.

It is in the interests of democracy to ensure there is a thorough debate about the euro.

Despite the Government's insistence in its October policy statement that EMU is more about hard-headed economics than politics, there is no use denying that EMU is a political issue.

Without public understanding of and support for a single currency, it is doomed to failure.

Of course, EMU is not a subject which excites and interests people. But that is not a reason for refusing to confront it, for shirking the responsibility of political leadership on the issue.

Otherwise, EMU — if and when we join — will be what it is already in some of the other prospective member countries — something which has been thrust on them from above by the financial markets and political elites.

It may be that the Government is actuely aware of this pitfall and is simply waiting until EMU starts before moving the debate up a gear.

If everything goes according to plan, Europe's economic success over the next couple of years will contrast unfavourably with the expected UK economic slowdown, or worse, recession.

That could provide the right backdrop against which to start promoting the benefits of EMU membership. Let's hope that that is the reason for the Government's prevarication. The other explanation for the Government's silence on EMU is less kind. It amounts to political cowardice.

Sources: Press reporting in the UK, France and Germany: a pilot study by Jerry Palmer, London Guildhamm University.

JP Morgan's European Economic Outlook, April 3.

EMU: Prospects and Challenges for the Euro, published by Blackwell for the Centre for Economic Policy Research.

New Deal is no way to cut the bills

Debate

David Willetts

WELFARE to Work is at the heart of the New Labour Project. It is supposed to enable this government to avoid the dilemmas that dogged Labour governments in the past.

We are told, for example, that the New Deal will actually reduce spending on unemployed people so that resources can be shifted into education or health.

Thus it is supposed to enable Labour to deliver higher expenditure on popular programmes without any increase in total spending.

However, there is no welfare-to-work scheme anywhere in the world which has been able to deliver this. New tax-and-spend dilemmas cannot be escaped so smoothly.

There is another claim made for the New Deal which is often allowed to pass without challenge. This is the claim that by investing money in training the least qualified members of the workforce you can have a significant impact on income distribution without having to take difficult decisions on taxes and benefits.

It is nonsense to claim that a £3.5 billion welfare-to-work scheme is going to have any significant impact

Tony Blair has put the argument as follows: "A better trained and educated population not only raises productivity and living standards, it helps reduce inequalities by giving people increased earnings power." (Liffe lecture, September 16, 1996).

In my recent pamphlet for the Social Market Foundation, Welfare to Work, I try to analyse this as well as other claims made for the New Deal.

I begin by making some heroic assumptions about the effectiveness of the New Deal. Let us assume that the £3.5 billion on the New Deal for young people and long-term unemployed is money well spent.

Assume that all of it, whether it goes direct into training or education or simply into job subsidies, yields a significant and useful investment in human capital. Assume that the investment in human capital yields a 10 per cent rate of return to participants — as good an effect as very good schemes anywhere in the world, even ones focusing much more narrowly on particular target groups.

That means that after the four-year term of this £3.5 billion programme, participants in the scheme should be earning a total of £350 million a year more than they otherwise would have been. I doubt if the scheme's most passionate advocate would claim more than that.

Let us now look at how such an effect compares with the pattern of earnings in this country. Since 1979 the incomes of the less well qualified or the unqualified have increased in real terms but by less than the incomes of people with qualifications.

Imagine that one wanted to restore income differentials to what they were in 1979. We can calculate the increase in incomes necessary to restore the ratios of pay between the unqualified and the well-qualified that obtained in 1979.

Look at the case of a man with no qualifications. His real income went up by 14 per cent between 1979 and 1995, whereas for a man with a degree real income went up by 33 per cent. To restore the 1979 income differential a man with no qualifications would need to have earnings not of £250 but of £295 per week, almost an extra £2,400 a year, which in return means an investment in training him of £24,000.

There are 4.5 million unqualified men in work, so a training investment to raise their incomes would *cost £108 billion.*

If you add to this example male workers with qualifications simply up to CSE level and female workers with no qualifications or qualifications up to CSE level, you need a total increase in their incomes of £24 billion so as to restore their differentials to 1979 levels. With a 10 per cent return for training schemes, this means expenditure on training of £240 billion.

Of course the figures are schematic, indeed absurd. But the point underlying it is a very serious one. Given the number of people in the workforce and the level of their incomes it is nonsense to claim that a £3.5 billion welfare-to-work scheme is going to have any significant impact on the distribution of income nationwide.

It would take a scheme many times larger than the one envisaged to close the earnings gap between the qualified and relatively unqualified, even assuming an almost miraculous effectiveness. It is no good pretending that somehow the New Deal is going to make any significant contribution to an objective of narrowing income differentials.

Indeed, ironically, we are beginning to see from the latest evidence that some narrowing of the income differentials has been under way for several years now, probably beginning from 1993.

Labour may want to claim that this trend is being driven by the New Deal, but it began before it and is much bigger than anything the new Deal can deliver.

David Willetts is Conservative MP for Havant.

Economics made easy

Why won't Labour spend more? CHARLOTTE DENNY looks at changes in PSBR policy

What is the public sector borrowing requirement?

Like sensible people's books, with running balances for incomings and outgoings, it's the difference between how much the government spends and earns each month.

How large?

Last year the Government spent £25.6 billion in March and collected £18 billion from tax, social security revenues and other bits and pieces, leaving it with a shortfall of £9 billion. The borrowing requirement for March this year, figures for which are released today, will probably be about £7-8 billion.

The Government must have an awfully big overdraft by now if it borrows that much each month . . .

March isn't typical. Most of the Government's revenue has already been collected, and in fact it's built up a nice little surplus over the first 11 months of the financial year, which started last April. With £6 billion in the bank, unless there is a real disaster this month, the Chancellor should comfortably meet his revised target for this fiscal year of borrowing £5 billion.

In December's "green" Budget, the Chancellor thought it was going to more like £12 billion. Why the undershoot, then?

It's always an extremely tricky number to forecast because the revenue and spending numbers are so large that even a small change to either one makes a big difference to the gap. A booming economy has helped — falling unemployment means more workers who are paying tax. In addition, of course, the Labour government has done an impressive job of reining in Whitehall spending.

Does this mean UK plc is solvent again?

We could be on course next year for the first budget surplus since 1991. However, the official Treasury line is we mustn't repeat the mistake of the late 1980s and confuse a temporary surplus for a long-term improvement in the *public balance sheet.* Which, translated, means this is not an excuse for a party.

So no tax-cuts or massive spending boosts?

There will be rewards for departments which have shown restraint when the spending review reports. Long term, the watchword is "fiscal stability". The Chancellor wants the country to borrow no more than it invests, and to keep public debt stable as a proportion of national output.

Translate?

It's time governments lived within their means.

Indicators

TODAY — JP: Trade Balance (Mar).
UK: PSBR (Mar).
GER: Producer prices (Mar).
TOMORROW — UK: Retail prices (Mar).
EU: Finance ministers meeting
WEDNESDAY — FR: Industrial production (Feb).
FR: National Assembly vote on EMU participation.
UK: Unemployment (Mar).
UK: Average earnings (Jan).
THURSDAY — JP: Fiscal reform panel meeting.
GER: Parliamentary votes on EMU.
UK: Retail sales (Mar).
FRIDAY — UK: Preliminary GDP (Q1).
FR: Trade balance (Feb).

Source: HSBC Markets Limited.

Tourist rates — bank sells

Australia 2.502	Germany 2.973	Malaysia 6.28	Singapore 2.65
Austria 20.83	Greece 512.75	Malta 0.64	South Africa 8.217
Belgium 61.22	Hong Kong 12.72	Netherlands 3.337	Spain 251.35
Canada 2.365	India 67.20	New Zealand 2.917	Sweden 12.80
Cyprus 0.863	Ireland 1.174	Norway 12.38	Switzerland 2.479
Denmark 11.37	Israel 6.30	Portugal 301.76	Turkey 402,025
Finland 9.072	Italy 2,945	Saudi Arabia 6.168	USA 1.653
France 9.934			

Supplied by NatWest (excluding rupee, shekel and rdollar)

Keeping the company of wolves

Worm's eye

Dan Atkinson

SOME "burning issues" burn themselves out. Who now remembers the fuss about London's third airport, secondary picketing or the activities of the Price Commission over the cost of teabags?

But there are plenty of bones of contention, for ever being buried only to be exhumed; the export of live animals was a huge issue in the 1970s and again in the mid-1990s; threats to the Green Belt rear their ugly head on an almost metronomic basis.

Then, there's "profit", or, as we used to call it, the profit motive. Businessmen declare on television that "profit is not a dirty word", when they mean it "ought not to be a dirty word".

Profit is the moral flaw in the market system, capitalism's guilty secret. Lord Hailsham devoted an entire chapter of The Conservative Case to profit, which he redefined as "any material reward for service or labour, especially when this is graduated in proportion to achievement or skill". He concluded that profit was the least-worst system, given "the fallibility of the human spirit," hardly a belting endorsement.

The 1984/1985 miners' strike marked the last set-piece occasion in which a sizeable body of opinion held it intolerable that economic institutions should be closed down just because they were losing money.

After that, all went quiet and conventional wisdom had it that profit was being restored to its proper place with benefits for efficiency and economic growth.

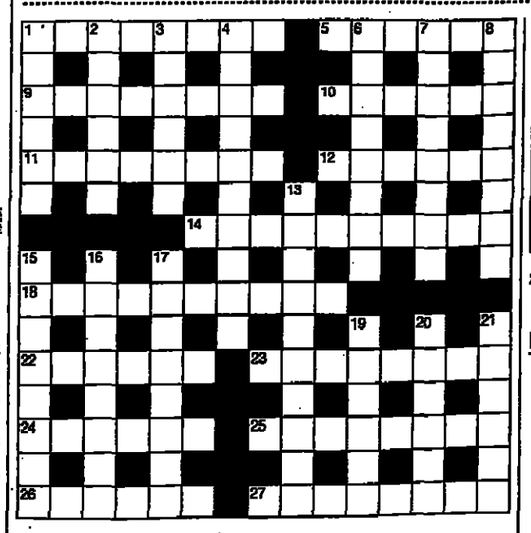
Then a funny thing happened. The first recession may have wiped out factories that lost money, but the slump of the early 1990s hit many whose figures were healthy. No news bulletin was complete without a baffled shop steward in front of a doomed plant, declaring it had consistently made good profits.

The ghastly truth was dawning that it was no longer enough to make profit; to satisfy the mercenary army of the City and Wall Street, you had to make a profit equal to any available elsewhere.

It was now styled "rate of return" and, with exchange control conveniently abolished, capital was free to roam in search of the ultimate high. Market apologists called profit a sturdy carthorse 20 years ago. Now we know better, it is a ravening, universal wolf.

Guardian Crossword No 21,253

Set by Rufus

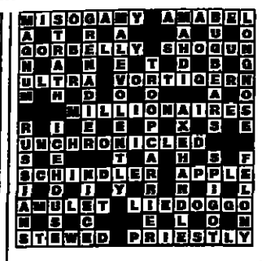


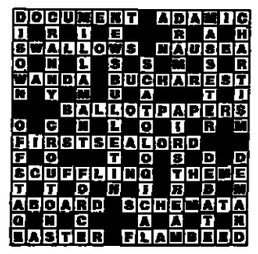
Across

1 Well-mannered class setting socially acceptable standards (4,4)
5 All the difference between life and death? (6)
9 Takes too much fare (8)
10 Not available to take employment — a symptom of illness (6)
11 Driver, perhaps, doing the rounds in a cart (4,4)
12 The land of the living? (6)
14 A daring aspirant to sporting fame (10)
18 It looks like the campanologist is late (4,6)
22 Jumbo pilot? (6)
23 Novel is remote and tedious (8)
24 Cake made by Claire (6)
25 One metal fused into many (8)
26 Mistakes in a Shakesperian comedy (6)
27 Publicly upbraid stupid person holding one back (8)

Down

1 One of the men in a boat helps the pilot (6)
2 Gymnastics only seen outside, in public (6)
3 Charge extorbitantly for a woollen coat (6)
4 Improving, though in a negative way, perhaps (10)
6 Arose from having the call-up date wrong (8)
7 Strange things about American election campaigns (8)
8 Rough meadow overlooking the railway (8)
13 Loyalty as, for example, in marriage (10)
15 A bed made badly by George Eliot (4,4)
16 One would lose status as union member (8)
17 Others take risks so he may rake in the money (8)
19 Sheep doctor going round Ireland (6)
20 Two companies join together on a silk product (6)
21 Make another impression in the pool? (6)





WINNERS OF PRIZE PUZZLE 21,246

This week's winners of a Collins English Dictionary are Bill Stevens of Borrowash, Derby, Louise Hathaway of London SE4, Joe Ford of Brigg, Lincolnshire, Mrs. C. Harding of Liverpool, May Rattray of Stirling, Scotland, Chris Long of Leamington Spa, Warwickshire, Mr. R. E. Dedridge of Rochester, Kent, E. & J. Wratten of Winchester, Hampshire, N. V. Graham of London, SW6 and K. McKenna & J. Burton of Norwich.

Please allow 28 days for delivery.

Solution tomorrow

ABFPRST

PARTING SHOT

Natural high . . . spectators in the front row crane their necks as Neil Carson, competing in the Welsh Masters, negotiates the edge of a 10-metre overhang on the 15-metre wall at the world's largest indoor climbing centre, built on an old coal mine in Trelewis

Photograph by Jeff Morgan

Prince's office politics stray way below the belt

SCREEN BREAK

Martin Kelner

IAN DARKE has the toughest job in televised sport. Not only does he have to conduct the post-fight interview with Naseem Hamed, he also has to fight the impulse to box the young upstart around the ears.

This cannot be easy when your brain has been turned to guacamole by a display of flashing lights, laser beams, and holograms to make The Strip at Las Vegas look like Clitheroe High Street, and you have spent the evening watching young men receive general approbation for solving their problems by knocking seven bells out of each other. I felt Darke going a little twitchy after Naz's victory at Manchester's Nynex Arena on Saturday, and I think his fist may have clenched around the microphone when the Prince — or His Royal Highness of Boxing, as he was introduced by the MC Michael Buffer — replied to one of Darke's fairly anodyne questions with: "What ya sayin', Curly?"

If this was a reference to the fact that Darke's formerly luxuriant mane is thinning a little, it was an extraordinarily personal one (I do not recall Muhammad Ali ever calling Harry Carpenter "speccy"), and gave the commentator the perfect excuse to floor Naz with a left hook, especially since the Sheffield boxer had rather unwisely dropped his guard at that particular point.

Actually, I have no evidence that Darke is a proficient boxer, but he has the look of a pugnacious light-heavyweight who may have taken a punch or two, and his knowledge of boxing technique seems fairly complete. But he let the moment pass, and allowed HRH to return to his familiar mix of swagger — "Did ya see them knock-dahns, the wicked accuracy of mah punches?" — and humility — "I thank Allah and my dad."

Perhaps Darke would have been more inclined to give Naz what for had he climbed into the ring to interview him — Harry Carpenter, I seem to recall, used to squeeze through the ropes and take his chances — but these days the commentators stay put and the boxers go over to them to dispense their post-bout wisdom, which speaks volumes about the change in the relationship between television and boxing.

At some levels I am sure boxing is still a noble art and a valuable discipline for young men who might otherwise turn to violent crime (copyright Pat O'Brien, 1938), but I cannot be alone in thinking that these nights of world championship boxing have about as much relevance outside the world of satellite and cable television as the World Wrestling Federation. Any residual doubts on this point were dispelled by the fact that among the first to congratulate Naz after his victory were two executives of America's Home Box Office.

> There were 15,000 gallons of water I felt could have been better employed in parts of the developing world, and Yorkshire

Not that much confirmation was needed. I am no expert on matchmaking but all three bouts at the Nynex seemed to have been arranged on the same crude cartoon-show basis — a slow, dogged trier against a "showman", that is a boxer with a better haircut and a more elaborate light show.

Chris Eubank, for instance, spent £350 having his hair cut in Manchester prior to the fight, we were told. He is still not quite in the same class as His Royal Highness, though, who pumped 15,000 gallons of water around the Nynex to create a special effect to enhance his ring-walk, water that I felt could have been better employed in parts of the developing world, and Yorkshire.

Having shelled out 12 quid for the TV coverage I did not hear any of the boxing on the radio, but I suspect somebody on Radio 5 Live said it was a "good day at the office" for Hamed. I am sorry to say I have been behaving like a deranged pedant of late, clocking up uses of this irksome cliché, and the reporters on 5 Live are by far the worst offenders.

Like most clichés, it actually meant something when it was first coined, that is that the victory had been a fairly routine one for a performer used to success, and so was the equivalent of just another day in the office for the rest of us.

But in recent weeks, Pat Murphy has reported on "a satisfactory day at the office" for England in the West Indies, Ian Robertson complimented England on "a good day at the office" after victory in a rugby international while, just for variety Ian Payne, reviewing the Premiership results on Sport On 5, suggested that it had been "an interesting day at the office".

The good news is that all these comments make perfect sense if you just remove the words "at the office". Try it lads.

TV SPORT HIGHLIGHTS

Today
Snooker: World Championship from the Crucible.
(BBC2, 1.10-2.10pm, 2.45-5pm and 7.50-9pm; highlights BBC2, 11.15pm-midnight).
Live Athletics: Boston Marathon.
(Eurosport, 5-7.30pm).
Football: Gary's Golden Boots — Gary Lineker on goalscoring legends.
(BBC1, 7.30-8pm).
Generals: On Side, including guests Gianluca Vialli and Nadia Comaneci.
(BBC1, 10.40-11.25pm).
Tomorrow
Live Cricket: Sussex v Lancashire, AXA Life League.
(Sky Sports 1, 5-10.30pm).
Snooker: World Championship.
(BBC2, 1.10-2.35pm, 3.30-6pm and 8.45-7.30pm; BBC1, 2.35-3.30pm; highlights BBC2, 11.15pm-midnight).
Live Football: England B v Russia B.
(Sky Sports 2, 7.30-10pm).
Wednesday 22
Snooker: World Championship.
(BBC2, 1.10-2.35pm, 4-6pm and 9-10pm; BBC1, 2.35-3.30pm; highlights BBC2, 11.15pm-midnight)
Live Football: England v Portugal.
(Sky Sports 2, 7-10.30pm; highlights ITV, 10.40-11.40pm).
Football: Republic of Ireland v Argentina.
(Eurosport, 9-11pm).
Thursday 23
Live Golf: Spanish Open, day one.
(Sky Sports 1, 1-5pm).
Snooker: World Championship.
(BBC1, 2.35-3.30pm; BBC2, 3.30-6pm and 7.10-8pm; highlights BBC2, 11.15pm-midnight).
Generals: The Sports Show. With Eamonn Holmes and Will Carling.
(ITV, 10.40-11.40pm).
Friday 24
Live Golf: Spanish Open.
(Sky Sports 1, 1-5pm).
Live Snooker: World Championship.
(BBC 2, 1.10-6pm and 9-10pm; highlights BBC 1, 11.15pm-12.15am).
Live Football: Port Vale v Middlesbrough.
(Sky Sports 2, 7-10pm).
Live Rugby League: Leeds v Salford.
(Sky Sports 1, 7.30-10pm).
Generals: A Question of Sport.
(BBC1, 8.30-9pm).
Saturday 25
Live Snooker: World Championship.
(BBC1, 11.00am-12.15pm, 2-4.40pm; BBC2 4.40-7pm; highlights BBC2, 9-11pm)
Live Formula One: San Marino grand prix, qualifying.
(ITV, 11.40am-1.30pm)
Generals: Grandstand, including rallying and snooker.
(BBC1, 12.15-5.15pm)
Live Golf: Spanish Open.
(Sky Sports 3, 12.30-3.30pm).
Live Rugby Union: Leicester v Saracens.
(Sky Sports 2, 2-4.30pm)
Football: Match of the Day.
(BBC1, 10.20-11.30pm).
Sunday 26
Live Athletics: London Marathon.
(BBC1, 9.45-11.50am and 12.35-1.25pm; Eurosport, 9-11.30am; highlights BBC2, 6.40-7.30pm).
Live Football: Nottingham Forest v Reading.
(Sky Sports 2, noon-3pm)
Live Golf: Spanish Open.
(Sky Sports 3, 1-4pm)
Snooker: World Championship.
(BBC2, 1.30-5.50pm and 8.50-10.00pm)
Live Formula One: San Marino Grand Prix.
(ITV, 12.20-3.20pm).
Live Football: Derby County v Leicester City.
(Sky Sports 1, 3-6.30pm)
Live Rugby League: Wigan v London.
(Sky Sports 1, 8.30-8.30pm).

Weekend results

RUGBY UNION

COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIP: Final
Cheshire 21 Cornwall 14
U-21 FINAL
Cumbria 7 East Midlands 31
ALLIED DUNBAR PREMIERSHIP
One
Gloucester 27 Bath 17
Harlequins 14 Leicester 23
Northampton 39 Richmond 47
Sale 28 Wasps 26
Bristol 5 London Irish 17
Saracens 12 Newcastle 10

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Newcastle	17	15	0	2	494	306	30
Saracens	18	15	0	3	474	319	30
Bath	17	11	0	6	475	370	22
Leicester	17	10	1	6	447	354	21
Gloucester	18	9	1	9	435	454	19
Richmond	18	9	0	10	483	420	18
Sale	18	8	2	8	438	449	18
Northampton	18	7	1	8	368	311	15
Harlequins	18	7	0	11	430	482	14
Wasps	17	5	1	11	378	482	11
London Irish	17	5	0	12	337	522	10
Bristol	19	2	0	17	289	630	4

Two
Bedford 16 Exeter 3
Coventry 16 Fylde 7
London Scottish 26 Waterloo 6
Orrell 3 Rotherham 9
Wakefield 21 Blackheath 24
West Hartlepool 18 Moseley 18

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Bedford	20	18	0	1	690	286	36
London Scots	21	14	1	6	507	385	29
W Hartlepool	20	13	1	6	556	392	27
Rotherham	21	13	0	8	516	359	26
Coventry	20	11	1	8	420	477	23
Orrell	21	11	0	10	479	392	22
Waterloo	21	10	0	11	466	504	20
Moseley	20	9	1	10	403	409	19
Blackheath	21	8	0	13	443	549	16
Wakefield	21	6	0	15	374	602	12
Exeter	21	6	0	15	307	603	12
Fylde	21	2	0	19	249	668	4

JEWSON NATIONAL LEAGUE
One
L St Helens 14 Lydney 13
Morley 10 Rugby 16
Newbury 13 London Welsh 20
Rosslyn Park 28 Wharfedale 14
Worcester 25 Leeds 20

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Worcester	25	23	0	2	968	325	46
Rugby	25	21	0	4	727	392	42
Leeds	25	20	1	4	825	397	41
Lda Welsh	25	20	1	4	810	463	41
Newbury	25	12	2	11	623	513	26
Rosslyn Pk	25	12	1	12	465	537	25
Nottingham	25	12	0	13	497	580	24
Reading	25	10	1	14	581	673	21
Otley	25	10	1	14	432	641	21
Wharfedale	25	8	3	14	466	651	19
Liv St Helens	25	6	1	16	406	731	13
Lydney	25	5	0	20	359	845	10
Harrogate	25	4	1	20	483	988	9
Morley	25	4	0	21	340	828	8

Two, North
Walsall 10 Birmingham/Sol 27
Nuneaton P Preston G P

WELSH NATIONAL LEAGUE
Premier Division
Cardiff 52 Bridgend 17
Llanelli 26 Pontypridd 36
Neath 28 Swansea 38
Newport 10 Ebbw Vale 18

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Swansea	11	8	2	1	414	197	34
Cardiff	10	7	1	2	322	207	28
Pontypridd	10	6	2	2	307	180	26
Ebbw Vale	11	6	0	5	218	320	20
Llanelli	11	4	2	5	262	264	16
Neath	11	4	1	6	283	326	16
Bridgend	11	3	2	6	216	372	12
Newport	11	0	0	11	173	318	2

First Division
Aberavon 12 Rumney 24
Abertillery 26 Blackwood 15
Bonymaen 38 Cross Keys 12
Dunvant 20 Pontypool 14
Maesteg 10 Newbridge 40
Merthyr 38 Caerphilly 23
Treorchy 51 Llandovery 12
UWIC (Cardiff Inst)25 S Wales Police 27
AIB LEAGUE
Semi-finals
Shannon 28 St Marys 21
Garryowen 24 Young Munster 10
Second Division play-off, first leg
Buccaneers 11 Dungannon 17
TENNENTS PREMIERSHIP: Division 3A: Grangemouth 52 Stewarts Mel FP 13. **Division 3B:** Glenrothes 18 Glasgow Southern 10.
TENNENTS VELVET: Semi-finals: Cup: Currie 17 Kelso 18; Glasgow Hawks 37 Boroughmuir 12. **Bowl:** Camoustie HSFP 29 Strathmore 5; Perthshire 22 Ross High 13. **Shield:** Stewartry 16 Berwick 20; Selkirk 9 Ayr 7.
CLUB MATCHES: Nottingham 34 Cheltenham 22; Weston-S-Mare 13 Gloucester OB 54.
WOMEN'S BREAD FOR LIFE CUP: Final: Saracens 5 Wasps 0.
HAWICK SEVENS: First round: Glasgow Hawks 33 Stewart's Melville 0; Biggar 17 Hawick 26; Kelso 0 Heriot's 38; West of Scotland 33 Melrose 19; Langholm 19 Stirling County 38; Selkirk 17 Gala 36; Peebles 14 Jed-Forest 29; Boroughmuir 12 Watsonians 36. **Second round:** Glasgow Hawks 10 Hawick 28; Heriot's 17 West of Scotland 28; Stirling County 26 Gala 14; Jed-Forest 19 Watsonians 31. **Semi-finals:** Hawick 26 West of Scotland 21; Stirling County 12 Watsonians 19. **Final:** Hawick 36 Watsonians 31 (aet).
SUPER 12 (Dunedin): Otago 29 Wellington 8.

RUGBY LEAGUE

SUPER LEAGUE
Huddersfield (16) 24
T: Arnold, Barton, Sturm, Weston.
G: Weston 4.
St Helens (16) 26
T: Long 2, Newlove, Sullivan.
G: Goulding 5.
Att: 4,946.
London (6) 14
T: Beazley, Ratchless.
G: Masterson 2.
DG: Masterson 2.
Warrington (0) 4
T: Tuuta.
Att: 3,500.
Salford (12) 12
T: Blakeley, Rogers.
G: Blakeley 2.
Hull (4) 4
T: Prescott.
Att: 5,227.
Wigan (18) 40
T: Connolly 3, Bell, Betts, Radlinski, Smith.
G: Farrell 6.
Halifax (6) 6
T: Gibson.
G: Chester.
Att: 12,841.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Wigan	3	3	0	0	96	28	6
Leeds	3	3	0	0	76	34	6
Salford	3	2	0	1	63	26	4
Bradford	3	2	0	1	56	36	4
Halifax	3	2	0	1	68	52	4
Hull	3	2	0	1	44	40	4
St Helens	3	2	0	1	82	76	4
Castleford	3	1	0	2	33	44	2
London	3	1	0	2	24	42	2
Sheffield	3	0	0	3	34	64	0
Huddersfield	3	0	0	3	38	94	0
Warrington	3	0	0	3	16	81	0

FIRST DIVISION
Hunslet (24) 31
T: Baker 2, Ellis, Filipo, North.
G: Ellis 5.
Hull KR (10) 30
T: Dixon, P Fletcher, Gene, Rouse, R Smith.
G: M Fletcher 5.
Att: 2,309.
Keighley (14) 25
T: Foster, Laurence, Robinson, Sapetu.
G: Irving 4.
Widnes (4) 22
T: Salisbury 2, Moore.
G: Hewitt 5.
Att: 2,363.
Rochdale (14) 16
T: McKinney, Pachniuk.
G: Gray 4.
Whitehaven (12) 38
T: Lewthwaite 3, Maitetoe-Brown 2, Wilson 2, Allen, Joe.
G: Hetherington.
Att: 721.
Swinton (18) 31
T: Adams, Ashcroft, M Barrow, Cannon, Knowles.
G: Gartland 4, S Casey.
DG: Price-Jones.
Featherstone (22) 30
T: Chapman, Child, Collins, Highton, Irwin.
G: Chapman 5.
Att: 1,128.
Wakefield (14) 26
T: Southernwood 2, Fuller, A Hughes.
G: A Hughes 5.
Dewsbury (12) 26
T: Bramald, P Delaney, B Williams, Williamson, Wood.
G: Eaton 3.
Att: 2,265.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Wakefield	10	8	1	1	237	161	17
Hunslet	10	7	1	2	285	182	15
Hull KR	10	7	0	3	240	145	14
Dewsbury	10	6	2	2	260	168	14
Swinton	10	6	0	4	261	188	12
Whitehaven	10	6	0	4	283	230	12
Featherstone	10	5	0	5	264	227	10
Widnes	10	3	0	7	204	248	6
Keighley	10	2	0	8	163	304	4
Leigh	10	2	0	8	177	357	4
Rochdale	10	1	0	9	154	298	2

SECOND DIVISION
Barrow (12) 19
T: Ruddy 2, Holt, Hutton.
G: Marwood.
DG: Marwood.
Batley (7) 17
T: Bargate, Cass, Martin.
G: Price 2.
DG: Barnett.
Att: 1,268.
Lancashire Lynx (24) 40
T: Kelly 2, Parsley 2, Donno, Ruane, Solomon, Taylor.
G: P Jones 4.
Doncaster (6) 6
T: Birdsall.
G: Creeseer.
Att: 750.
York (18) 18
T: Booth, Deakin, Harlan, Moore.
G: Hopcutt.
Workington (12) 14
T: Arnold, Henare.
G: Fisher 3.
Att: 670.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Barrow	3	2	1	0	65	47	5
Brawley	2	2	0	0	31	20	4
Lancs Lynx	2	1	1	0	60	26	3
Batley	2	1	0	1	42	30	2
Oldham	1	1	0	0	22	18	2
York	3	1	0	2	36	52	2
Workington	3	0	0	3	42	66	0
Doncaster	2	0	0	2	20	55	0

NATIONAL CONFERENCE LEAGUE
Premier
Askam 12 Saddleworth 27
Dudley Hill 26 Walney Central 12
Egremont 54 Leigh Miners 0
Lock Lane 10 Beverley 23
Oldham St Annes 25 Mayfield 24
Wigan St Patricks 20 Heworth 20
Woolston 36 West Hull 1
First Division
Milom 26 Eastmoor 26
Moldgreen 26 Shaw Cross 18
Oulton 34 Wigan St Judes 6
Skirlaugh 36 Milford 4
Thornhill 64 Barrow Island 14
Second Division
Crosfields 26 Ovenden 16
Dewsbury Moor 14 Siddal 40
Dodworth 16 Featherstone 30
Normanton 26 New Earswick 12
ALLIANCE: Widnes 6 Sheffield 46.
First Division: Batley 23 Barrow 16; Hemel 6 Keighley 16; Leigh 14 Workington 16; Whitehaven 32 Rochdale 30.
AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL LEAGUE: Canterbury 58 Gold Coast 10; North Sydney 44 Auckland 32; Parramatta 22 Melbourne 32; Penrith 24 St George 30; South Sydney 41 Western Suburbs 10; Canberra 20 Illawarra 22; Cronulla 10 Balmain 11; North Queensland 17 Newcastle 4; Manly 26 Brisbane 4; Sydney City 60 Adelaide 12.

GOLF

CANNES OPEN (Royal Mougins GC): Final scores (GB/Ire unless stated, *amateur):

	278	
T Levet (Fr)		69 71 65 73
	279	
P Price		74 68 72 67
G Turner (NZ)		70 73 67 69
S Struver (Ger)		69 72 69 69
	280	
C Whitelaw (SA)		72 71 72 65
S Webster		70 71 70 69
	281	
R McFarlane		75 68 70 67
	282	
M Davis		69 69 73 71
P Lonard (Aus)		68 71 70 73
A Sherborne		73 68 68 73
	283	
M Roe		70 75 70 68
A Cejka (Ger)		72 73 68 70
P Lawrie		74 71 67 71
J Haeggman (Swe)		70 73 68 72
J Remsey (Fr)		67 74 69 73
	284	
M-A Martin (Sp)		69 74 76 65
I Garbett		74 71 74 65
M Campbell (NZ)		70 75 72 67
D Howell		73 70 72 69
A Oldcorn		72 72 70 70
D Higgins		69 69 75 71
M Mouland		71 71 71 71
S Tinning (Den)		70 74 69 71
P Fulke (Swe)		73 65 71 75
M Long (NZ)		69 72 70 73
E Darcy		71 72 66 75
	285	
B Hay (US)		74 71 71 69
C Hainline (US)		71 72 71 71
R Jacquelin (Fr)		69 73 70 73
C O'Connor Jnr		72 64 75 74
M-A Jimenez (Sp)		75 69 66 75
	286	
O Edmond (Fr)		72 71 74 69
S Alker (NZ)		73 71 71 71
G Brand Jnr		75 69 71 71
S Luna (Sp)		69 68 77 72
M Gronberg (Swe)		73 71 68 74
	287	
D Lynn		67 75 76 69
C Dwelliar (Fr)		74 71 72 70
J Van de Velde (Fr)		73 72 72 70
A Clapp		73 72 71 71
P Mitchell		71 74 70 72
P Linhart (Sp)		72 71 69 75
	288	
D Gilford		70 74 74 70
J Lomas		71 70 76 71
P Walton		72 71 73 72
F Tarnaud (Fr)		70 74 71 73
J Townsend (US)		70 72 72 74
T Gillis (US)		73 67 73 75
	289	
*D Montoni (Fr)		70 73 75 71
A Sandywell		69 74 72 74
P Sjoland (Swe)		72 69 72 76
	290	
R Allenby (Aus)		67 75 73 75
C Van Der Velde (Neth)		71 72 72 75
	291	
D Robertson		73 70 76 72
S Bennett		72 73 73 73
S Allan (Aus)		71 67 72 81
	292	
W Westner (SA)		69 77 75 71
J Singh (India)		67 74 73 72
S Lahery (Fr)		72 71 77 72
M Farry (Fr)		70 73 71 78
	293	
J Robson		71 74 76 72
A Bisaghi (It)		71 74 74 74
	294	
D Tapping		75 70 76 73
P Simonet (Fr)		76 69 72 77

US PGA BICI CLASSIC (South Carolina): Leading third-round scores (US unless stated):

	201	
D Love		67 66 68
	203	
P Mickelson		67 71 65
	204	
P Stewart		69 71 64
	205	
L Mattiace		69 67 69
	206	
N Price (Zim)		67 69 70
J Sluman		69 67 70
G Day		67 67 72
J Haskins		66 73 67
D Tewell		66 73 67
	Others: 215	
D Clarke (Ire)		72 71 72
	217	
N Faldo (GB)		70 74 73

US LPGA MYRTLE BEACH CLASSIC (South Carolina): Leading third-round scores (US unless stated):

	202	
K Webb (Aus)		68 66 68
	203	
M Mallon		62 73 68
	205	
T Barrett		70 69 66
J Moodie		69 69 67
	206	
T-J Myers		71 68 67
C McCurdy		65 71 70
	Others: 212	
L Hackney (GB)		71 68 73
	215	
L Davies (GB)		70 72 73
	217	
S Strudwick (GB)		71 73 73

CHINA OPEN (Shanghai): Leading final scores:

	269	
S Pryett (Eng)		69 65 69 66
	271	
T Okyama (Japan)		67 67 71 66
	272	
A Meeks (US)		67 68 67 70
	273	
R Byrd (US)		72 67 67 67
N Van Rensburg (SA)		66 73 64 70
	275	
B Meeks (US)		66 70 71 68
J Sandon (Aus)		66 71 68 69
G Norquist (US)		67 70 69 70

TENNIS

ATP/WTA JAPAN OPEN (Tokyo): **Men: Semi-finals:** A Pavel (Rom) bt J-M Gambill (US) 6-4 6-3. B Black (Zim) bt D Vacek (Cz) 6-3 7-5. **Final:** Pavel bt Black 6-3 6-4. **Women: Semi-finals:** C Morariu (US) bt A Frazier (US) 4-6 7-5 6-4; A Sugiyama (Japan) bt Wang Shi-ting (Tai) 6-3 6-2. **Final:** Sugiyama bt Morariu 6-3 6-3.
WTA INTERNATIONAL (Makarska, Croatia): **Final:** K Hrdlickova (Cz) bt Fang Li (China) 6-3 6-1.
DAVIS CUP: Group two: Asia/Oceania zone: **First round:** Iran bt Qatar 5-0.
FED CUP (Perth, Aus): **Group two:** Russia bt Australia 3-2.
ATP BARCELONA OPEN: Final: T Martin (US) bt A Berasategui (Sp) 6-2 1-6 6-3 6-2.
GINOBANK TOUR (Bournemouth): **Finals: Men:** L Bale (SA) bt R Matheson (Scot) 2-6 7-6 6-4. **Women:** M Jaubert (SA) bt E Erbova (Cz) 6-3 6-3.

ATHLETICS

ROTTERDAM MARATHON: Men: 1 F Benceno (Sp) 2hr 7min 35sec; 2 L Bongiu (S Kor) 2:07.44; 3 D Goff (It) 2:08.33; 4 J Kiprono (Ken) 2:09.11; 5 N Saho (Japan) 2:09.23; 6 B van Vlaanderen (Neth) 2:10.27; 7 D Tokunaga (Japan) 2:12.02; 8 K Ziani (Mor) 2:12.09; 9 G van Heat (Neth) 2:12.57; 10 S Lelel (Ken) 2:14.23. **Women:** 1 T Lemapre (Ken) 2:20.47; 2 J Asari (Japan) 2:26.11; 3 N Ilyina (Rus) 2:30.08; 4 M-L Munoz (Sp) 2:31.55; 5 N Matsuyama (Japan) 2:34.14; 6 M le Gallo (Fr) 2:35.09; 7 E Mongudhi (Nam) 2:38.44; 8 M Pullen (Neth) 2:39.34; 9 S van Saenbroek (Bel) 2:43.08; 10 A Coethalsm (Fr) 2:43.11.

BASKETBALL

NBA: Washington 112 Boston 95; Cleveland 95 Indiana 92; Chicago 111 New York 109; Minnesota 111 Milwaukee 109; Golden State 112 Vancouver 100; LA Clippers 83 Sacramento 77.

CHESS

CHALLENGE MATCH (London): England v Scotland. **Third games:** M Adams (Eng), J Rowson (Scot). Ruy Lopez, 38 moves. **Fourth games:** M Adams (Eng) drew with J Rowson (Scot), Sicilian defence, 26 moves. Adams lead 3½-½.

CYCLING

WORLD CUP: Liege-Bastogne-Liege 265km: 1 M Bartoli (It) 6hr 36.31min; 2 L Jalabert (Fr) at 1.10min; 3 R Massi (It) 1.21; 4 F Cessagrande (It) 1.21; 5 M Boogerd (Neth) 1.21; 6 F Vandenbroucke (Bel) 1.35.

BASEBALL

AMERICAN LEAGUE: Cleveland 7 Boston 4; NY Yankees 8 Detroit 8; Toronto 9 Chicago 4; Oakland 3 Kansas City 2; Seattle 5 Minnesota 3; Baltimore 10 Texas 6; Tampa Bay 5 Anaheim 1.
NATIONAL LEAGUE: New York Mets 5 Cincinnati 4 (10inns); San Diego 7 Pittsburgh 5 (10inns); Milwaukee 3 San Francisco 1; St Louis 6 Philadelphia 5; Chicago Cubs 8 Los Angeles 1; Atlanta 11 Colorado 4; Arizona 7 Florida 5; Houston 4 Montreal 3.

EQUESTRIANISM

WORLD CUP FINAL: Showjumping: Third leg: 1 Calvaro (J Lansink, Neth) 0ftts; 2= Classic Touch (P Raymakers, Neth), Radiator (R Tebbel, Ger), Priamos (L Beerbaum, Ger), Casino (R Spooner, US), Vondeen (J M Nicolas, Fr), Virtual Village It's Otto (G Billington, GB), Esprit (L Nieberg, Ger), Baloubet du Rouet (R Pessoa, Br) all 4fts. **Standings:** 1 Baloubet du Rouet (R Pessoa, Br) 6.5fts; 2 Esprit (L Nieberg, Ger) 7.5; 3 Priamos (L Beerbaum, Ger) 12.5; 4= Radiator (R Tebbel, Ger), Casino (R Spooner US) 16; 6= S'Billett (L Howard, US), Alvareto (M Goldstein-Engel, US) 16.5.

HOCKEY

QUADRANGULAR INTERNATIONAL TOURNAMENT (Trent Park): Wales 4 France 3; England 4 Scotland 0; Wales 1 Scotland 3; England 6 France 0. **Final standings:** 1 England 9 pts; 2 Scotland 6; 3 Wales 3.
WELSH LEAGUE (Hawarden): **Play-off:** Northop Hall 0 Whitchurch 2 (Whitchurch qualify for European Club Championship 1999).
WOMEN'S INTERNATIONALS (Terrassa): Spain 1 Scotland 0; Spain 2 Scotland 0. (Spain win series 2-0).
WOMEN'S NATIONAL LEAGUE (Milton Keynes): **Play-offs: Group A:** Liverpool Sefton 1 St Albans 3; West Witney 4 Sefton 1; St Albans 1 W Witney 2. **Group B:** Hampton 1 Dulwich 1; Belmouth 3 Hampton 3; Dulwich 1 Exmouth 0. **Final qualifying matches:** West Witney 1 Hampton 2; Dulwich 2 St Albans 3. (Hampton and St Albans qualify for National League Division 2).
COLORADO CUP (Melbourne): **Final:** Australia 6 Argentina 0. **3/4th:** India 1 New Zealand 2.

ICE HOCKEY

NATIONAL LEAGUE: Washington 4 Carolina 3; Colorado 4 Detroit 3; Dallas 3 Chicago 1; Anaheim 4 Los Angeles 1; NY Rangers 2 Philadelphia 1; Pittsburgh 5 Boston 2; Montreal 3 Buffalo 3 (ot); NY Islanders 2 New Jersey 1. St Louis 5 Phoenix 4; Tampa Bay 2 Florida 2 (ot); Edmonton 4 Toronto 3; San Jose 4 Calgary 1.
WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP (Slovenia): **Pool B:** Estonia 5 Great Britain 4; Denmark 5 Poland 5; Ukraine 5 Norway 2; Slovenia 6 Netherlands 1.

MOTORCYCLING

MALAYSIAN GRAND PRIX (Pasir Gudang): **500cc:** 1 M Doohan (Aus) Honda; 2 C Checa (Sp) Honda; 3 M Biaggi (It) Honda. **World championship standings:** 1 Biaggi 41pts; 2 Checa 28; 3 A Criville (Sp) 26. **250cc:** 1 T Harada (Japan) Aprilia; 2 T Okada (Japan) Honda; 3 O Jacque (Fr) Honda; 7 J McWilliams (GB) TSR-Honda. **Standings:** 1 Harada 36; 2 Jacque 27; 3 K Dalliro (Japan) 25; 9 McWilliams 15. **125cc:** 1 N Ueda (Japan) Honda; 2 M Gianeni (It) Honda; 3 T Manako (Japan) Honda. **Standings:** 1 Manako 35; 2 K Sakata (Japan) 35; 3 Ueda 25.

SNOOKER

EMMASSY WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS (Sheffield): **First round:** K Doherty (Ire) bt L Walker (Wales) 10-8; F O'Brien (Ire) bt J Wattana (Thai) 10-8; A Hamilton (Eng) bt D Harold (Eng) 10-8; T Drago (Malta) bt A Burden (Eng) 10-8.

SQUASH

OPEN SATELLITE GRAND PRIX (Halifax): **Finals: S Meads** (Berks) bt P Lord (Cheshire) 15-8 16-17 15-6 15-11.

The week's fixtures

TODAY

(7.45 unless stated)
FOOTBALL
GM Vauxhall Conference: Northwich v Halifax.
Unibond League: Premier Division: Hyde Utd v Colwyn Bay (7.30).
Pontins League: Premier Division (7.0 unless stated): Blackburn v Birmingham; Liverpool v Nottm Forest; Preston v Tranmere; Stoke v Derby.

TUESDAY

FOOTBALL
'B' Internationals: England v Russia (Loftus Road); Scotland v Norway (7.30, Tynecastle).
Nationwide League: First Division: Postponed: Crewe v Sheff Utd. **Second Division:** Carlisle v Grimsby; Wigan v Walsall. **Third Division:** L Orient v Scunthorpe.
GM Vauxhall Conference: Dover v Slough; Rushden & D'monds v Yeovil; Welling v Cheltenham.
FA Youth Cup: Semi-final, second leg: Peterborough v Blackburn (7.0).
Rymans League (7.30): **Premier Division:** Aylesbury v Basingstoke; Bromley v Dulwich; Enfield v Yeading; St Albans v Boreham Wood.
Unibond League: Premier Division: Barrow v Boston Utd (a-t); Chorley v Marine (7.30); Lancaster v Blyth Spartans (7.30); Leigh RMI v Spennymoor (7.30); Radcliffe Borough v Bamber Bridge (7.30); Runcorn v Winsford Utd (7.30).
Dr Martens League: Premier Division: Cambridge C v Bath. **Cup: Final, second leg:** Redditch Utd v Margate (7.30).
Pontins League (7.0): **Prem

هكذا من الاصل

Racing

Professionals get behind Owners' Association president for top British Horseracing Board post. **Ron Cox** reports

Savill in bid to be BHB chairman

PETER SAVILL, at one time the British Horseracing Board's fiercest critic, yesterday put himself forward as a candidate for the job of chairman.

Savill had publicly ruled himself out of the running in January, within hours of Lord Wakeham's acrimonious resignation but, following a campaign involving an influential group of racing industry professionals, the Racehorse Owners' Association president has joined the race.

"After much deliberation, I have decided to put my name forward for the position of chairman of the British Horseracing Board," said Savill.

"I have reached this decision based on the overwhelming support and endorsements of large segments of the racing industry who have urged me to stand and who support my candidacy.

"I made a conscious decision two years ago to do what I can to help improve the financial structure of British racing. If I am elected by my fellow board members I will devote my time and energy to solving the industry's problems.

"I feel sure that I can continue to unite the industry and will do my best to develop racing's self-help initiatives and to persuade the Government and the betting industry that a larger percentage of betting turnover must come back into racing."

A large number of trainers from both codes, including Henry Cecil, Michael Stoute, John Gosden, Tim Easterby, Nicky Henderson, David Nicholson and Martin Pipe, have endorsed Savill's candidacy.

Numerous influential owners, including the Maktoum family, Sir Peter O'Sullevan, Cheveley Park Stud, Fahd Salman and Robert Sangster, are also behind Savill.

Banking director Sir William Purves is likely to be backed by senior members of the Jockey Club, and professionals lobbying for Savill rest their case on the requirement for the BHB to be led by an "insider" following what they regard as the disappointments endured under Wakeham.

Savill, whose views were once described by the BHB hierarchy as "unhelpful" and prejudicial to efforts to encourage unity within racing, proved to be the driving force behind the Board's financial plan which he unveiled in January.

Against the backdrop of the Maktoums' threat to withdraw from British racing and the recent switch of Godolphin two-year-olds to a base in France, Savill's appointment could have a settling effect.

The BHB chair is a part-time job. Even so, Savill's status as a non-resident in Britain — he can visit the country for only 90 days a year — will no doubt enter calculations.

On the Sagitta 2,000 Guineas front there was no threat to Xaar's position as hot favourite following the trials at Newbury on Saturday and Longchamp yesterday.

Victory Note, who got home by a neck from La-Faah in the Tripleprint Greenham Stakes at muddy Newbury, is not even entered at Newmarket.

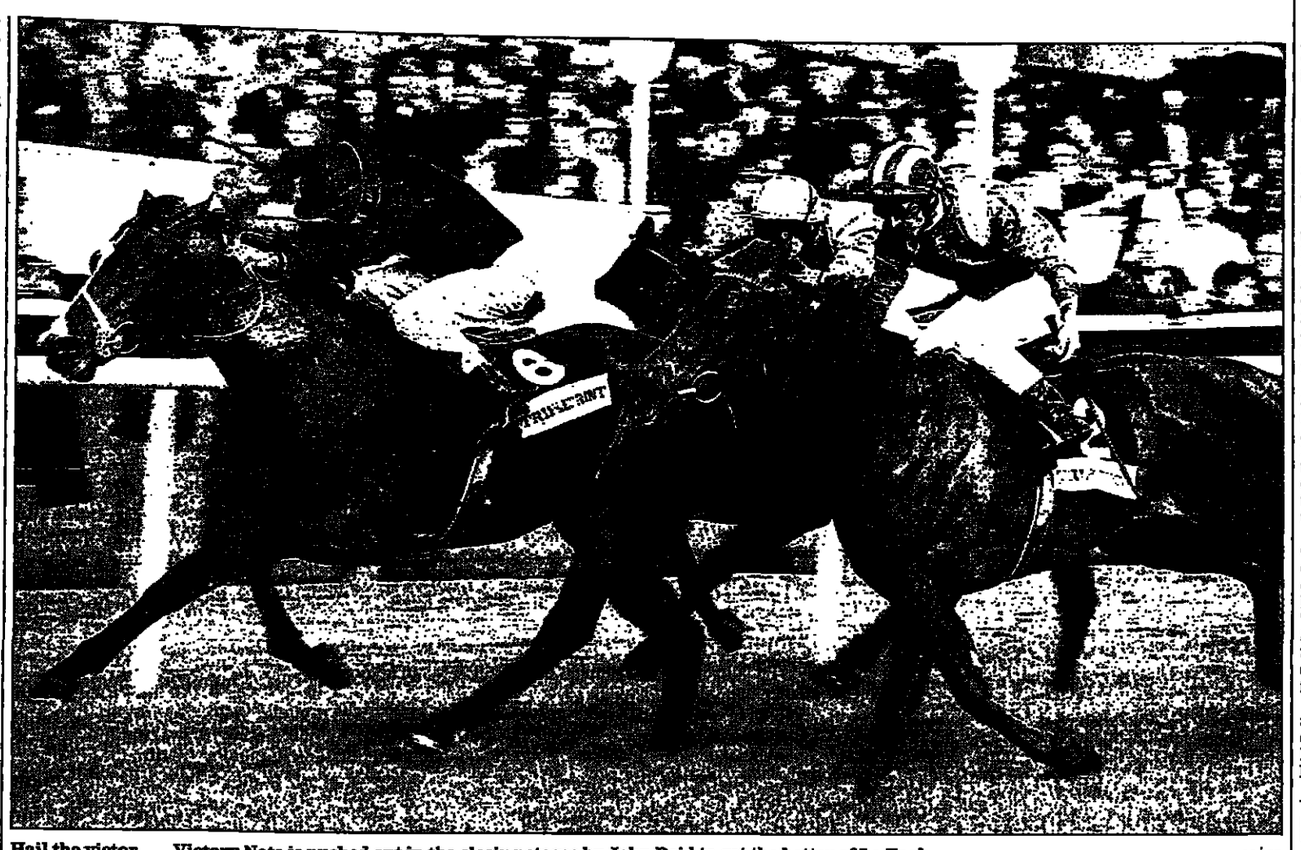
The Guineas is only a "possibility" for With The Flow, who justified favouritism with an all-the-way three lengths success in the Prix de Fontainebleau at Longchamp, in which Loudeac caught the eye running on nicely into second spot.

Criquette Head, trainer of With The Flow, stated that Loving Claim was still on course for the Sagitta 1,000 Guineas provided the going is not soft.

Zalaiyka, owned by the Aga Khan and trained by Alain de Royer-Dupre, won yesterday's Prix de la Grotte at Longchamp.

She stays at home to contest the French 1,000 Guineas, but Croco Rouge, two-length winner of the 10 furlongs Prix Greffulhe, could go for the Vodafone Derby.

The Pascal Bary-trained colt will run in the Prix Lupin at Longchamp on May 10 and then a decision will be made about Epsom.



Hail the victor . . . Victory Note is pushed out in the closing stages by John Reid to get the better of La-Faah PHOTOGRAPH: JULIAN HERBERT/ALLSPORT

Golf

Levet rallies and blows for home in France

Gordon Richardson in Cannes

THOMAS LEVET became the first Frenchman to win a European Tour event on home soil when he captured the Cannes Open at Royal Mougins yesterday.

Not since Jean Garaialde took the French Open title at St Nom-la-Bretèche in 1969 — a year after Levet was born and two years before the Tour officially came into being — has a home-grown player done the trick and astonishingly Levet did it as a non-card holder.

Having failed by two strokes to regain his playing credentials at last year's PGA school he had to rely on his French order-of-merit status to gain entry to his first Tour event of the season; his victory could hardly have been more nerve-tingling.

Four ahead after a brilliant 65 on Saturday, he looked a certain winner but he was caught by the Welshman Phillip Price, New Zealand's Greg Turner and Germany's Sven Struver, who survived a protracted last-hole rules inquiry, at five under par as he faltered in the wind.

A brave six-foot birdie putt at the 15th and another audacious birdie at the 17th left him needing a par five at the last for a two-stroke triumph.

But the 29-year-old Parisian, who made only one cut in 13 starts after winning his US Tour card four years ago, contrived almost to throw it away with his fellow countrymen looking on aghast.

After driving on to the bank of a bunker he blasted into another sand trap and his recovery attempt would have embarrassed a weekend hacker, the ball soaring into the air above his head before dropping back at his feet.

"I was so surprised I almost laughed — I didn't know if the ball was going to hit me on the head or maybe drop in my pocket," he said. To his eternal credit he got the next one on the green and gutsily coaxed in a 10-footer for a 73, the title by one shot with a six-under total of 278, a £50,000 prize and a priceless two-year Tour exemption.

Levet's father, a doctor, got the credit for curing an allergy to air conditioning which struck four years ago and also for restoring his golf game after a grim 1996 in which he shot 90 in one event and an even grimmer end to 1997.

Dr Levet, a five-handicap amateur, noticed his son was lining up his body to the right of the target and his club to the left. Suitably re-aligned, he found himself powering the ball two clubs further. The rest now is history.

Fryatt's Asian affair is a winner

ED FRYATT secured further success in Asia yesterday when he won the Volvo China Open at Shanghai.

Fryatt, 27, who holds a British passport but has lived in the United States since the age of four, fired a six-under-par 66 to win by two strokes on 269 from Japan's Takeshi Ohyama, who also carded a 66.

Last month he beat the Ryder Cup player Lee Westwood in a play-off for the Malaysian Open and he has also triumphed in the 1997 Indian Open and 1996 Indonesian Open.

"I first came to Asia in 1995 to play and remember making a putt to qualify for a tournament. That putt gave me a lot of confidence and I've been playing well since," said Fryatt, whose four successive birdies from the 10th helped him to capture the £48,000 first prize after starting the day one shot off the lead.

Brighton runners and riders

	RON COX	TOP FORM
2.00	Maljurt	Simpson's Domain
2.30	Dandy Regent (nap)	Baxter
3.00	Sabhaan	Sabhaan
3.30	Ela-Yle-Mou	Monaco Gold
4.00	Briska	Admirals Flame
4.30	Daynabee	Gally Hill
5.00	Bright Paragon	Dande Flyer
5.30	Jabal Hadeed	Silver Kristal

U-shaped left-handed course of 1¼m with 3¼f run-in. Sharp and undulating.
Going: Good. ★ Denotes blinkers. ● Top form rated.
Draw: No advantage.
Long distance travellers: Daynabee (4.30), N Tinkler, N Yorks, 270 miles.
Seven day winners: None.
Blinkered first time: 3.30 Select Star. Visored: 3.00 Imperial Prince; 4.30 Arcane Star & Sergeant Imp.

2.00 EBF/LADBROKES SUPPORTS SCOPE NOVICE AUCTION STAKES 2YO
5f 59yds £2,624 (11 declared)

1 (3) 0 Legal Venture (18) (BF) B Meehan 8-12 ..... J Weaver —
2 (11) 0 Maljurt (23) R Hannon 8-12 ..... R Hughes 88
3 (7) Ace of Trumps W Haggas 8-9 ..... F Lynch —
4 (4) Jackie's Baby W G M Turner 8-9 ..... T Sprake —
5 (1) 0 Cygalinda (19) C Dwyer 8-7 ..... J Goldstein (7) —
6 (5) Volcanic Star M Bell 8-7 ..... M Fenton —
7 (6) 0 James Dee (8) A Jarvis 8-6 ..... D Sweeney (3) 82
8 (10) 5 Dance Jade (13) W Muir 8-4 ..... Dane O'Neill —
9 (2) 44 Dolly Day Dream (27) K Ivory 8-4 ..... M Roberts 86
10 (8) Petuchkin R Johnson Houghton 8-4 ..... A Clark —
11 (3) 63 Simpson's Domain (19) J S Moore 8-1 ..... M Adams ●90

Betting: 7-2 Volcanic Star, 5-1 Ace Of Trumps, 6-1 Petuchkin, Maljurt, 8-1 Dance Jade, Simpson's Domain, Legal Venture, 10-1 Dolly Day Dream.

2.30 LADBROKES TELEPHONE BETTING HANDICAP (CLASS D)
7f £3,583 (16 declared)

1 (15) 60000- Loch Patrick (239) M Madgwick 8-10-0 ..... J Reid 86
2 (12) 3000-0 Star Talent (10) (CD) I Balding 7-9-9 ..... S Whitworth 85
3 (2) 1-0500 Brother Indigo (63) (S) L Moore 4-9-5 ..... R Ffrench (7) 94
4 (16) 101-00 Apollo Red (66) (CD) G L Moore 9-9-4 ..... Candy Morris 83
5 (4) 4235-2 Baxter (18) (S) B Millman 4-9-3 ..... M Fenton ●90
6 (13) 100-05 Peticha (17) (S) Miss G Kelleway 4-9-2 ..... R Ffrench 86
7 (11) 501000 Super Monarch (7) (S) S Dow 4-9-2 ..... P Doe (5) 84
8 (7) 30090- Tycoon Girl (262) B Meehan 4-8-13 ..... W R Swinburn 83
9 (8) 0-1200 Kings Harmony (17) (CD) B Pearce 5-8-13 ..... A Daly (3) 88
10 (3) 10200- Bluster Max (193) (S) M Jarvis 3-8-13 ..... P Robinson 87
11 (14) 4060-0 Smooth Sailing (18) K McAuliffe 3-8-10 ..... Dane O'Neill 85
12 (1) 0542-3 Dandy Regent (21) C Dyer 4-8-8 ..... J Weaver 90
13 (6) 262-50 Twin Creeks (20) (S) Y Barne 7-8-6 ..... C Rutter 85
14 (5) 5303-5 Bold Spring (13) R Hannon 4-8-3 ..... F Fitzsimons (7) 84
15 (10) 23421 Cinnas (13) R Ingram 4-7-10 ..... N Adams 84
16 (9) 400-55 Jeetabhana (21) J Bridger 6-7-10 ..... G Bardwell 82

Betting: 11-2 Baxter, 7-1 Dandy Regent, Master Mac, 8-1 Cinnas, 10-1 Star Talent, Apollo Red, Peticha, Twin Creeks, 12-1 Kings Harmony, Bold Spring, Tycoon Girl

3.00 LADBROKES MAIDEN STAKES (DIV 1)
7f £3,355 (8 declared)

1 (7) 3 Lady Carlyon (14) N Callaghan 5-9-8 ..... R Ffrench 88
2 (4) 00- Fields of Omagh (256) I Balding 3-8-11 ..... S Whitworth 82
3 (2) 0-32 Imperial Prince (30) (BF) K McAuliffe 3-8-11 ..... Dane O'Neill ★ 85
4 (6) 0- Maazoom (266) J Gosden 3-8-11 ..... A Garth 77
5 (8) 555- Grainy (287) S Dow 3-8-11 ..... W Ryan 83
6 (5) 30- Russian Fury (172) A Stewart 3-8-11 ..... M Roberts 80
7 (1) 233- Sahhaan (229) M Tregoning 3-8-11 ..... R Mills ●90
8 (3) 0-2 Crystal Crane (21) C Dwyer 3-8-6 ..... J Weaver 86

Betting: 5-2 Sahhaan, 11-4 Russian Fury, 5-1 Maazoom, Fields Of Omagh, 8-1 Lady Carlyon, 10-1 Grainy, 12-1 Crystal Crane, 16-1 Imperial Prince.

3.30 SCOPE CLAIMING STAKES
1m 4f £2,656 (12 declared)

1 (4) 01040- Dancemaker Hall (164) C Dyer 5-9-8 ..... J Weaver 86
2 (1) /24002 Lancer (12) (BF) J Pearce 8-9-0 ..... A Polli (3) 88
3 (11) 341600 Counterpoints Rose (218) B Pearce 5-8-12 ..... P Doe (5) 84
4 (9) 03/3-5 Night Time (8) H Howe 6-8-12 ..... V Slattery —
5 (7) 05530- Ela-Yle-Mou (314) S Dow 5-8-10 ..... W Ryan 81
6 (12) 20/60- Kashan (338) (D) P Hayward 10-8-10 ..... Dane O'Neill —
7 (2) 0000- Sovereign (7180) M Muggeridge 4-8-10 ..... R Hughes —
8 (5) 120-13 Monaco Gold (23) (D) D Chapman 6-8-8 ..... M Hixmar ●90
9 (3) 0540-5 Select Star (422) G McCourt 4-8-5 ..... G Baxter ★ 79
10 (10) 4001/0 Blackfield Man (430) J Pitch-Hayes 8-8-2 ..... A Clark —
11 (6) 30-250 Kika (53) (D) K Burke 5-8-1 ..... T Sprake 84
12 (8) 4-0 Markapina (14) C Allen 4-7-12 ..... N Adams —

Betting: 7-2 Dancemaker Hall, 4-1 Lancer, 9-2 Monaco Gold, 5-1 Ela-Yle-Mou, 8-1 Counterpoints Rose, 10-1 Select Star, Kika, 16-1 Kashan

4.00 LADBROKES SPORTING SPREADS HANDICAP
1m £3,217 (15 declared)

1 (2) 24055- Perfect Pal (435) M J Weeden 7-10-0 ..... T Sprake 85
2 (1) 5040-0 Adelphi Flame (18) (D) C Wall 7-9-13 ..... S Sanders ●90
3 (3) -6104-0 Mistasia (194) (CD) V Soane 4-9-12 ..... C Rutter 87
4 (5) 21610- Bold Tina (178) (C) R Hannon 4-9-9 ..... Dane O'Neill 86
5 (4) 62450- Sand Cay (148) R O'Sullivan 4-9-5 ..... R Hughes 84
6 (12) 3500-0 Jewbaby (13) R Ingram 4-9-3 ..... A McGlone 80
7 (6) 0-5120 Inclination (40) (D) M Blanshard 4-9-3 ..... Dale Gibson 89
8 (13) -60044 Confrontor (13) (CD) S Dow 9-9-2 ..... W Ryan 87
9 (14) 04005- Daylight Dancer (176) C Dwyer 4-9-1 ..... J Weaver 85
10 (7) 40305- Ed's Folly (122) S Dow 5-8-13 ..... P Doe (5) 84
11 (5) 463400 Kingsclip Boy (3) (CD) M Ryan 9-8-12 ..... P McCabe (3) 84
12 (1) 000-00 Royal Carlton (83) (D) G L Moore 6-8-11 ..... S Whitworth 81
13 (8) 00400- Briska (158) J Akehurst 4-8-10 ..... T Quinn 80
14 (15) 60-652 Ardent (17) C Benstead 4-8-8 ..... J Reid 87
15 (10) 100-00 Le Chatelaine (74) (C) Miss B Sanders 4-8-7 ..... A Clark 88

Betting: 5-1 Confrontor, 6-1 Bold Tina, 7-1 Kingsclip Boy, 8-1 Inclination, Ed's Folly, 10-1 Briska, Mistasia

4.30 LADBROKES SETTLING CHAMPION PHIL HODGSON LIMITED STAKES 3YO
6f £2,561 (9 declared)

1 (1) 04-541 Cape Hope (18) (D) J Akehurst 9-0 ..... A Clark 89
2 (9) 0-2433 Arcane Star (13) A Jarvis 8-11 ..... D Sweeney (3) ★ 85
3 (2) 645000 Falkenberg (11) B Pearce 8-11 ..... A Daly (3) 83
4 (4) 403-43 Fortune Tower (66) (BF) R Hannon 8-11 ..... Dane O'Neill 88
5 (3) 400-06 Sergeant Imp (19) P Mitchell 8-11 ..... R Ffrench ★ 85
6 (6) 3600-0 Daynabee (20) (D) N Tinkler 8-8 ..... Kim Tinkler 88
7 (8) 300-05 Dover Soul (72) P Howling 8-8 ..... M Roberts 81
8 (7) 500-3 Gally Hill (19) I Balding 8-8 ..... S Whitworth ●90
9 (5) 2030-0 Persian Fortune (58) W G M Turner 8-8 ..... T Sprake 86

Betting: 7-2 Gally Hill, 4-1 Fiame Tower, 9-2 Daynabee, 5-1 Cape Hope, 6-1 Arcane Star, 7-1 Sergeant Imp, 14-1 Dover Soul, 16-1 Persian Fortune

5.00 LADBROKES PLAN TO DELIVER CHAMPION ROSEANNA CARROLL HANDICAP
5f 59yds £2,827 (13 declared)

1 (6) 352116 Divine Miss-P (11) (D) J Cullinan 5-10-0 ..... D Sweeney (3) 88
2 (9) 000-00 Dress In The Family (20) (D) G McCourt 6-9-5 ..... R Studholme (7) ★ 85
3 (1) 4603-4 Dande Flyer (19) (D) D Arbuthnot 5-9-4 ..... S Whitworth ●90
4 (8) -34244 Friendly Brave (13) (D) Miss G Kelleway 8-9-4 ..... R Hughes 86
5 (2) 4004-0 Pacific Tiger (13) S Dow 3-9-3 ..... W Ryan 85
6 (10) 4233-0 Ok John (19) J Akehurst 3-9-13 ..... A Clark 84
7 (12) 60600- Magical Dancer (277) Mrs P Dunfield 3-8-4 ..... M Fenton —
8 (7) 3550-2 Belgian Paragon (19) (D) K Ivory 9-8-4 ..... M Roberts 89
9 (13) 4-0410 Dubliqua (46) (D) M Fourtane 3-7-13 ..... R Ffrench ●90
10 (5) 05600/ Midnight Cookie (621) R Hodges 5-7-11 ..... W Adams —
11 (3) 00-060 Lady Ralphina (13) J Bridger 3-7-10 ..... K Leslie —
12 (11) 000-00 Aschangue (11) Rob Jones 3-7-10 ..... Dale Gibson —
13 (4) 0000-0 Distant Dynasty (32) (D) B Pearce 9-7-10 ..... P Doe (5) —

Betting: 9-2 Dande Flyer, 5-1 Divine Miss-P, 6-1 Ok John, Belgian Paragon, 7-1 Friendly Brave, 8-1 Rose In The Family, Magical Dancer, 10-1 Dubliqua.

5.30 LADBROKES MAIDEN STAKES (DIV 2)
1m £3,355 (8 declared)

1 (5) 4- Bhaka Lady (206) R Rowe 4-9-6 ..... A Clark —
2 (4) 45224- Silver Kristal (188) R Armstrong 4-9-6 ..... F Norton ●98
3 (1) Elegant Hero R Hannon 3-8-11 ..... Dane O'Neill —
4 (3) Jabal Hadeed M Jarvis 3-8-11 ..... P Robinson —
5 (8) 035-4 Krisanaba (11) B Meehan 3-8-11 ..... W R Swinburn 89
6 (6) 66- Pelagos (168) R Charlton 3-8-11 ..... T Sprake 85
7 (2) 02240- Soft Touch (198) (BF) Miss G Kelleway 3-8-6 ..... J Reid 82
8 (7) 5- Tokay (187) P Cole 3-8-6 ..... T Quinn 87

Betting: 3-1 Soft Touch, 7-2 Silver Kristal, 6-1 Tokay, Krisanaba, 7-1 Pelagos, 8-1 Elegant Hero, Jabal Hadeed, 12-1 Bhaka Lady.

COURSE SPECIALISTS

Jockeys	1st Runs	%	Level St	Trainers	1st Runs	%	Level St
T Quinn	45	176	25.6	+19.90	R Hannon	30	170	16.5	-29.35
Dane O'Neill	33	124	19.5	+4.91	G L Moore	26	177	14.7	-27.87
S Sanders	19	124	15.3	-4.15	S Dow	18	128	14.1	-0.95
Pat Eddery	17	53	32.1	+0.58	B J Meehan	15	106	14.2	-19.63
M Roberts	15	72	20.8	+6.79	Gay Kelleway	14	62	22.6	+42.84
J Reid	15	84	17.9	-11.16	M J O'Sullivan	10	60	16.7	+6.00
R Doyle	14	86	16.3	-8.28	P F I Cole	9	82	11.1	-50.22

Trainer watch

Horses having their first run for a new trainer today — Brightons: 2.30 Master Mac, R Akehurst to M Jarvis; 3.00 Sabhaan, W Haggas to M Tregoning; 4.00 Briska, R Akehurst to J Akehurst; 4.30 Dover Soul, P Makin to P Howling; 5.00 Midnight Cookie, Brian Arthur Pearce to R Hodges; 5.30 Silver Kristal, R Akehurst to R Armstrong.

Hexham: 2.20 Dawn's Delta, Michael Mullineaux to Mrs S Smith; Shardante, W Bethell to J M Jefferson & Tarran Teddy, J Wharton to W Reed; 3.50 Chill Factor, Mrs M Reveley to M Wilson; Durham Glint, J A Heffernan to Allan Dickman; Lowgling, J S Haldane to R W Brydon & Sowerby, J Wharton to I Park.

Nottingham: 2.10 Shakdeela, M Channon to J W Mullins & Sian Prior; K Burke to J Harris; 2.40 Nellie North, G McCourt to A Chamberlain; Take A Risk, M Johnston to A Newcombe & White Setter, R Hodges to Miss S Wilton; 3.10 Montendre, M Heaton-Ellis to R Hodges; 3.40 Uncharged, C Brittain to J Harris; 4.40 Dancas, R Charlton to J M Bradley & River Junction, D Nicholson to B Smart.

Nottingham Jackpot card

	RON COX	TOP FORM
2.10	Sky Mountain	Sky Mountain
2.40	Bon Sizzle	Swino
3.10	Montendre	Montendre
3.40	Distant Storm	Compass Pointer (nap)
4.10	Further Flight	Further Flight
4.40	Mr Fortywinks	Mr Fortywinks (nb)
5.10	Ribblesdale	Ribblesdale

Left-handed, level 1¼m track with 4¼f run-in. Straight 6f.
Going: 6f course Soft, Heavy in places. 5f course and round course Soft. ★ Denotes blinkers.
Draw: Low numbers best in 2.10 & 2.40.
Long distance travellers: Take A Risk (2.40), A Newcombe, Devon, 222 miles; Venetian Scene (3.40), M Pipe, Devon, 196 miles; Chi-Lin (2.10), P Butler, E Sussex, 176 miles.
Seven day winners: 2.40 Swino.
Blinkered first time: 2.10 Slim Prior; 2.40 Senrate; 4.40 Break The Rules. Visored: None.
Figures in brackets after horse's name denote days since last outing. J, Jumps.

2.10 OVAL SELLING STAKES 3YO
6f £2,198 (15 declared)

101 (3) 536400 Figaiale (14) (D) Mrs R Walton 9-2 ..... J Quinn 85
102 (15) 543353 Slim Prior (20) J L Harris 9-2 ..... D Holland ★ 87
103 (8) 0-500 Can Miss (14) J Eyre 8-11 ..... O Peers 83
104 (1) 6000- Beary The Proud (196) J Berry 8-11 ..... P Fessey (3) —
105 (12) 033062 Sky Mountain (20) S Bowring 8-11 ..... K Fallon ●90
106 (5) 05- Vet's Deceit (362) Ron Thompson 8-11 ..... V Halliday 80
107 (4) 053-40 Chi-Lin (17) P Butler 8-6 ..... J F Egan 84
108 (10) 05-030 Paradise Princess (61) R Hollinshead 8-6 ..... Paul Eddery 83
109 (11) 022-50 Kathies Pet (16) (BF) R Hodges 8-6 ..... B Cochrane 88
110 (14) 0-462 Magic Moment (18) J S Moore 8-6 ..... F P Murphy (3) 87
111 (2) 006-04 Mumble's Pension (19) A Bailey 8-6 ..... D Wright 81
112 (7) 00 Head Some Space (23) J Bradley 8-6 ..... C Lowther (3) —
113 (9) 0-0 Pelaez (24) F Dalton 8-6 ..... L Charnock —
114 (6) 0030- Shakdeela (298) J Mullins 8-6 ..... S Drowne 76
115 (13) 6300-0 Turf Moor (13) J O'Neill 8-6 ..... K Darley 80

Betting: 4-1 Sky Mountain, 5-1 Magic Moment, 6-1 Kathies Pet, 7-1 Mumble's Pension, 8-1 Can Miss, Slim Prior, 10-1 Henry The Proud, Paradise Princess, 12-1 Turf Moor

FORM GUIDE - Slim Prior: Soon chasing winner, ridden and one pace final 2f, 7l 3rd of 17 behind Blue Desert at Nottingham 1m soft, 5d. Can Miss: Raced alone far side, outpaced halway, kept on finally halway, 4¼l 8th of 10 behind Stately Favour at Southwell 5f gds clsm, AW. Sky Mountain: Always prominent, every chance inside final furlong, not quicken, 2l 2nd of 20 behind Kestrom Kit Kate at Nottingham 6f lcap, 6d-5lt. Vet's Deceit: Wknd 1f out, 6l 5th of 8 behind Flash d'Or at Catterick 5f soft, 6d. Paradise Princess: Behind final 3f, 21l 7th of 9 to Risky Whisky at Wolverhampton 6f soft, AW. Magic Moment: Hung left over 1f out, ran on well inside final furlong, 13l 2nd of 13 behind Cape Hope, with Mumble's Pension (weight 4lb) away 4th & Kathies Pet (levels) another 13l 7th, at Leicester 6f soft, 5lt. Turf Moor: Behind final 2f, 14l last of 10 to Hilions Executive at Wolverhampton 5f lcap, AW.

2.40 EDGBASTON HANDICAP
6f £3,659 (20 declared)

201 (8) 00-521 Swino (2) (BB and P) Evans 4-10-8 ..... J F Egan ★ ●98
202 (14) 20250- Shakdeela (178) (D) M Channon 4-9-5 ..... A Mackay 86
203 (10) 3000-1 White Setter (11) Miss S Wilton 5-9-4 ..... K Fallon 89
204 (6) 2-0000 Supreme Thought (46) (D) (BF) T Naughton 4-9-4 ..... D Holland 81
205 (18) 50060/ Mr Bumpsey (580) B Palling 4-9-3 ..... K Darley —
206 (16) 02000- Tinker Osmaston (176) (C) (D) R Hodges 7-9-2 ..... S Drowne 88
207 (17) 30-231 Kestrom Kit Kate (20) (CD) S Bowring 3-9-12 ..... C Teague (3) 85
208 (2) 50104- Take A Risk (187) A Newcombe 3-9-8 ..... F P Murphy (3) 82
209 (9) 50040- Grace (217) J Bradley 4-9-8 ..... C Lowther (3) 86
210 (20) 22115- Gay Breeze (176) (D) P Felgate 5-8-7 ..... G Carter 87
211 (15) 300- Never Golf Machine (161) T Naughton 3-8-7 ..... J Quinn 83
212 (13) 000- Bon Sizzle (174) J Fanshawe 3-8-7 ..... D Harrison 85
213 (12) 0000-0 Carlton (18) G Lewis 4-8-6 ..... Paul Eddery 83
214 (3) 5-6606 Shadow Jury (13) (D) D Chapman 8-8-5 ..... A Culhane ★ 85
215 (19) 605-60 Stephenson Rocket (29) P Farley 7-8-4 ..... J Carroll ★ 85
216 (1) 050-06 General Waire (11) B Mackinnon 3-8-3 ..... L Newton 80
217 (8) 5100-0 Gallant Lady (23) (D) J Wainwright 5-8-2 ..... Dean McKeown 86
218 (11) 006 Sarrula (20) D Shaw 4-8-0 ..... T Williams ★ —
219 (4) 20400- Nellie North (217) A Chamberlain 5-8-0 ..... R Mullen (5) ★ 83
220 (7) -00046 Craigie Boy (7) (D) M Bycroft 8-8-0 ..... S Maloney ★ 85

Betting: 8-1 Swino, 7-1 Kestrom Kit Kate, 8-1 Tinker Osmaston, 10-1 White Setter, Gay Breeze, Stephenson Rocket, 12-1 Never Golf Machine, Bon Sizzle, Shadow Jury.

FORM GUIDE - Swino: Raced far side, behind until good headway over 1f out, ran on strongly to lead inside final furlong, soon clear, won by 3¼l from Ziggy's Dancer at Thirsk 5f heavy, 6d-5lt. Shakdeela: Driven along 3f out, no impression, 4¼l 8th of 22 behind Colony Rise at Doncaster 7f app hcap, 6d. White Setter: Led over 1f out, ran on well, won by 6l from Birchwood Star at Leicester 7f sell, 5lt. Kestrom Kit Kate: Always prominent stands side, led inside final furlong, won by 2l from Sky Mountain at Nottingham 6f lcap, 6d-5lt. Take A Risk: Behind, headway 2f out, ran on inside final furlong, 10l 4th of 12 behind Supreme Angel at Haydock 6f lcap, Hvy. Gay Breeze: With leaders, led over 2f out until over 1f out, outpaced final furlong, 3l 5th of 22 behind Midnight Cookie, with Tinker Osmaston (gain 13lb) further 4l away 14th, at Leicester 6f hcap, 6d. Bon Sizzle: Led 3f, weakened over 1f out, 9l 8th of 21 behind Bandbox at Leicester 6f mdn auct, 6d. Shadow Jury: Soon ridden along, no headway final 2f, 5l 6th of 10 behind Hilions Executive at Wolverhampton 5f hcap, AW. Stephenson Rocket: Chased leaders, ridden and one pace final 2f, 15l 7th of 20 behind Deter at Nottingham 6f hcap, 6d-5lt. General Waire: Weakened over 2f out, 12l 6th of 7 behind On Helos at Leicester 7f mdn ills, 5lt. Craigie Boy: Outpaced until stayed on final furlong, no impression, 8l 6th of 9 behind Mango Park at Newcastle 5f hcap, 5lt.

3.10 LORDS CLAIMING STAKES
5f £2,385 (8 declared)

301 (3) 142350 Pelaezgate Touch (12) (D) J Berry 8-8-10 ..... C Lowther (3) ★ 88
302 (6) 23100- Montendre (187) R Hodges 11-9-6 ..... R Cochrane ●90
303 (8) 314222 Elton Ledger (20) (D) Mrs N Macauley 9-9-4 ..... K Fallon 85
304 (2) 04-405 Presentimmint (79) S Bowring 4-9-4 ..... C Teague (3) ★ 88
305 (4) 0 Penny Appeal (88) J Mullins 4-8-13 ..... S Maloney (7) —
306 (7) 00-000 Calandrella (13) G Balding 5-8-9 ..... G Price —
307 (5) 0265-2 Miss Scooter (23) A P Jones 3-8-1 ..... S Drowne 84
308 (1) 206-46 Super Gell (28) (D) C Dwyer 3-7-13 ..... F Fessey (3) ★ 86

Betting: 7-4 Montendre, 3-1 Elton Ledger, 9-2 Miss Scooter, 5-1 Pelaezgate Touch, 8-1 Super Gell, 16-1 Presentimmint, 25-1 Calandrella, Penny Appeal.

FORM GUIDE - Pelaezgate Touch: Raced stands' side, close up over 4f, 10l 11th of 18 behind Mellis at Ripon 6f hcap, 5lt. Montendre: Never troubled leaders, 14l 12th of 22 behind Alunsayah at Haydock 6f hcap, 5lt. Elton Ledger: Led 2f, chased winner final furlong, no impression, 6l 2nd of 20 behind Ocker at Kempton 6f hcap, 6d-5lt. Presentimmint: Headway over 2f out, nearest finish, 5l 5th of 9 behind Time Of Night at Wolverhampton 7f mdn hcap, AW. Calandrella: Prominent 3f, 34l 9th of 14 behind Clance Wharmpton 7f mdn hcap, AW. Miss Scooter: Always prominent, chased winner over 1f at Folkestone 6f app hcap, 5lt. Miss Scooter: Always prominent, chased winner over 1f out, ran on well, 1l 2nd of 7 behind Miss Dangerous at Folkestone 5f claim, 5lt. Super Gell: Chased leaders until ridden and beaten over 1f out, 7l 6th of 9 behind Dande Tiger at Southwell 5f sell, AW.

3.40 TOTE HANDICAP (SHOWCASE RACE)
1m 6f 15yds £7,498 (16 declared)

401 (7) 0320-0 Urgent Swift (9) M Pitman 5-10-0 ..... R Cochrane 84
402 (13) 13-131 Montecristo (22) (CD) R Guest 5-9-12 ..... C Lowther (3) 87
403 (16) 5110- Forgile (163) (D) P Calver 5-9-11 ..... M Day 88
404 (9) 10-435 Tolstoi Dancer (10) (CD) (BF) J Eyre 5-9-9 ..... K Fallon 94
405 (5) 01063- Merciless Cop (423) (C) Mrs M Jones 4-9-2 ..... K Darley ★ 85
406 (11) 06/1-5 Venetian Scene (9) M Pipe 4-9-2 ..... J Quinn 81
407 (8) 052-02 Slasher Jack (12) R Fahey 7-8-13 ..... J Carroll 86
408 (15) 4016-4 Arcady (29) (D) J L Harris 5-8-10 ..... D Holland 87
409 (12) 00541- Uncharged (206) J A Harris 6-8-10 ..... B Marten (5) 85
410 (4) 00443- Taufan Boy (423) (BF) G Balding 5-8-8 ..... S Drowne 83
411 (6) 20-041 Kintuel (11) T Donnelly 8-8-7 ..... P Fessey (3) 89
412 (3) 0606- Blaze Of Song (118) D Wintle 5-8-2 ..... A Mackay —
413 (2) 06031- Compass Pointer (312) (D) J Eustace 5-8-1 ..... J Tate ●90
414 (1) 55-030 Golden Hadeer (77) (C) (D) M Ryan 7-8-1 ..... M Henry 82
415 (10) 0-60 Groucho (23) M Bebbington 4-8-0 ..... J F Egan —
416 (14) 0-3235 Distant Storm (225) B Llewellyn 5-7-11 ..... J Bramhill ★ 86

Tote Betting: 5-1 Compass Pointer, 7-1 Kintuel, Totem Dancer, 8-1 Montecristo, 9-1 Venetian Scene, 10-1 Slasher Jack, Arcady, Taufan Boy, 11-1 Forgile, 12-1 Merciless Cop, 14-1 Distant Storm, 16-1 Uncharged, Golden Hadeer.

Ladbrokes Betting: 6-1 Compass Pointer, Kintuel, Totem Dancer, Montecristo, 9-1 Venetian Scene, 10-1 Slasher Jack, Forgile, 11-1 Merciless Cop, 12-1 Arcady, 16-1 Taufan Boy, Uncharged, Distant Storm, 18-1 Golden Hadeer

Coral Betting: 5-1 Kintuel, Totem Dancer, 7-1 Compass Pointer, 8-1 Montecristo, 9-1 Venetian Scene, Slasher Jack, 12-1 Arcady, Golden Hadeer, Merciless Cop, Distant Storm, 14-1 Forgile, Uncharged, Taufan Boy.

Stanley Betting: 13-2 Totem Dancer, 7-1 Compass Pointer, Kintuel, Venetian Scene, 8-1 Montecristo, Slasher Jack, 10-1 Arcady, 12-1 Taufan Boy, Forgile, Merciless Cop, 14-1 Distant Storm, Golden Hadeer, 16-1 Uncharged.

FORM GUIDE - Montecristo: Headway 4f out, squeezed through to lead 1f out, edged right, ridden out, won by 3l from Anderstan at Warwick 1m 5f hcap, 6d-5lt. Forgile: Led 2f out until over 1f out, soon weakened, 24l 11th of 16 behind Opaque at Doncaster 2m hcap, 5lt. Totem Dancer: Tracked leaders, ridden 4f out, soon well outpaced, 36l 5th of 7 behind Fossil at Hamilton 1m 5f hcap, Hvy. Merciless Cop: Led over 1f out until inside last, one pace, 1l 3rd of 12 behind Aeonis at Sandown 1m11f class, 6d-5lt. Venetian Scene: Led until over 2f out, soon weakened, 29l 5th of 13 behind Ivor's Flutter, with Urgent Swift (gave 14lb) tailed off 8th, at Kempton 2m hcap, 5lt. Slasher Jack: Outpaced 3f out, kept on strongly towards finish, 3l 2nd of 11 behind Filial at Ripon 1m4f hcap, 5lt. Arcady: Effort 2f out, not reach leaders, 9l 4th of 14 behind Alpine Panther at Nottingham 1m 6f hcap, 6d-5lt. Uncharged: Made virtually all, saddle slipped 2f out, ran on well, won by 1½l from Pasteur at Folkestone 1m7f hcap, Fm. Taufan Boy: Led over 5f out to 3f out, one pace final 2f, 4l 3rd of 14 behind Pribela at Catterick 1m 6f, 5lt. Kintuel: Led over 2f out, ridden out, won by 4l from Zermatt at Leicester 1m 4f hcap, 5lt. Compass Pointer: Stayed on to lead close home, won by head from Spy Anoll at Yarmouth 1m6f hcap, 5lt.

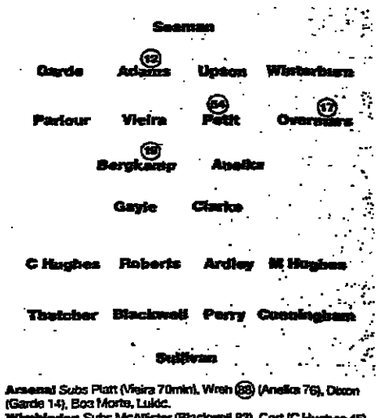
4.10 'MICHELOZZO' CONDITIONS STAKES
1m 6f £4,967 (5 declared)

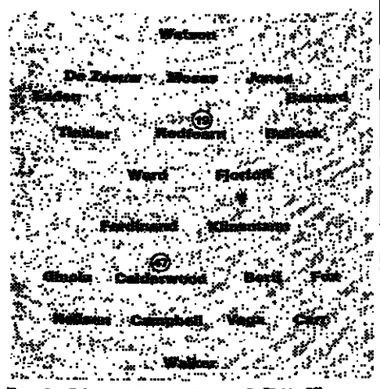
501 (3) 311-44 Sweetness Herself (14) (CD) M Ryan 5-9-5 ..... B Carter 87
502 (4) 23/10- Symonds Inn (317) J FitzGerald 4-9-2 ..... K Fallon 88
503 (1) 32215- The Faraway Tree (196) (D) G Wragg 4-8-9 Paul Eddery 88
504 (5) 41330- Further Flight (176) (CD) B Hills 12-8-7 ..... M Hills ●90
505 (2) 35216- Georgia Venture (189) (D) S Woods 4-8-0 ..... J F Egan 88

Betting: 2-1 Further Flight, 11-4 Symonds Inn, 9-2 The

FA Carling Premiership

Arsenal (3) 5 Barnsley (1) 1
Wimbledon (0) 0 Tottenham Hotspur (0) 1

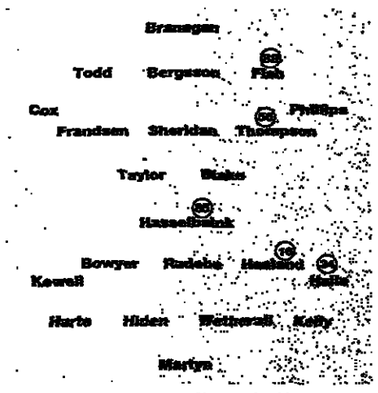


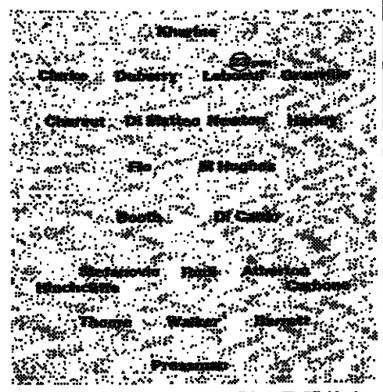


Arsenal Subs Platt (Vieira 70min), Wreh (98) (Anelka 76), Dixon (Garde 14), Boa Morte, Luzic.
Wimbledon Subs McAllister (Blackwell 83), Cort (C Hughes 45), Francis (Ardley 75), Kimble, Heald. *Booked* M Hughes.
Attendance 38,024 **Referee** P Jones (Loughborough)

Barnsley Subs Handrie (Jones 76), Marcelle (Tinkler 88), Appleby, Liddell, Leese. *Booked* Bullock, Tinkler, Moses.
Tottenham Subs Anderton (Ferdinand 70), Armstrong (Kinnear 45), Baardsen, Scales, Clemence. *Booked* Fox, Calderwood. *Sent Off* Vega 65.
Attendance 18,692 **Referee** M J Bodenham (West Sussex)

Bolton Wanderers (0) 2 Chelsea (1) 1
Leeds United (2) 3 Sheffield Wednesday (0) 0

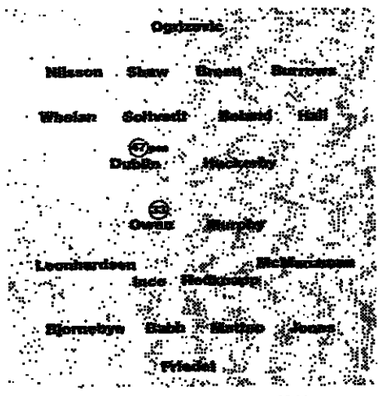


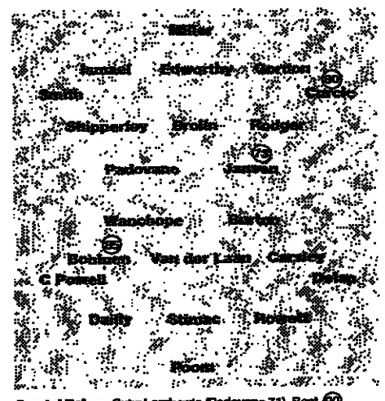


Bolton Subs Salako (Phillips 70), Giallanza (Sheridan 82), Jaaskelainen, Johansen, Taggart. *Booked* Cox, Bergsson, Thompson.
Leeds Subs Beeney, Molenaar, Hopkin, Jackson, Wallace. *Booked* Hasselbaink, Hiden.
Attendance 25,000 **Referee** J T Winter (Stockton-on-Tees)

Chelsea Subs P Hughes (Leboeuf 80), Nicholls (Flo 70), Morris (Harley 64), Hitchcock, Myers. *Booked* M Hughes.
Sheff Wed Subs Pembridge (Rudi 13), Magilton (Barrett 85), Clarke, Oakes, Whittingham. *Booked* Carbone, Di Canio.
Attendance 29,075 **Referee** G S Willard (Worthing)

Coventry City (0) 1 Crystal Palace (0) 3
Liverpool (1) 1 Derby County (0) 1





Coventry Subs Williams (Boland 88), Hedman, Moldovan, Eustace, Shilton. *Booked* Hall.
Liverpool Subs Riedle (Redknapp 74), James, Kvarme, Berger, Carragher. *Booked* Ince.
Attendance 22,721 **Referee** N S Barry (Scunthorpe)

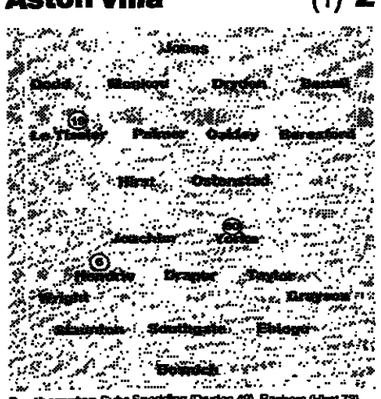
Crystal Palace Subs Lombardo (Padovano 71), Bent (90) (Jansen 83), Dyer, Nash, Hreidarsson.
Derby Subs Baiano (Van der Laan 58), Hunt (Delap 77), Sturridge (Burton 79), Kozluk, Knight. *Booked* Van der Laan.
Attendance 18,101 **Referee** P E Alcock (Redhill)

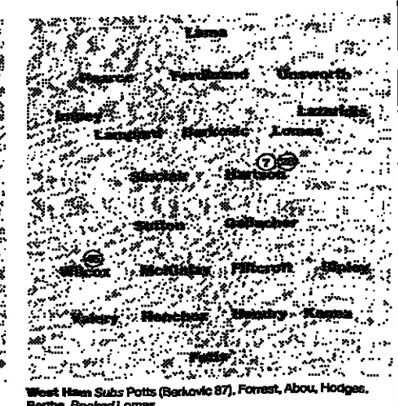
Everton (1) 1 Manchester United (1) 1
Leicester City (1) 1 Newcastle United (1) 1

Everton Subs Barmby (Materazzi 71), Gerrard (Parkinson 83), Ward, Thomas, Unsworth. *Booked* Dunne, Barmby.
Leicester Subs Cottee (Zagorakis 83), Arphexad, Fenton, Campbell, Wilson. *Booked* Guppy.
Attendance 33,642 **Referee** S J Lodge (Barnsley)

Man Utd Subs Van Der Gouw (Schmeichel 18), Solskjaer (G Neville 79), Scholes (Butt 44), Berg, Clegg. *Booked* Beckham, Pallister. *Sent Off* Solskjaer 89.
Newcastle Subs Ketsbaia (Andersson 56), Smicek, Tomasson, Gillespie, Watson. *Booked* Pistone, Shearer, Given.
Attendance 55,194 **Referee** U D Rennie (Sheffield)

Southampton (1) 1 West Ham United (2) 2
Aston Villa (1) 2 Blackburn Rovers (1) 1





Southampton Subs Spedding (Dryden 49), Basham (Hirst 73), Richardson, Johansen, Moss.
Aston Villa Subs Charles (Grayson 59), Milosevic, Scimeca, Bassell, Oakes.
Attendance 15,238 **Referee** A B Wilkie (Chester-le-Street)

West Ham Subs Potts (Berkovic 87), Forrest, Abou, Hodges, Berthe. *Booked* Lomas.
Blackburn Subs Dahlin (Ripley 75), Sherwood (Mery 56), Andersson, Croft, Flitcroft. *Booked* McKinlay, Sutton.
Attendance 24,733 **Referee** P A Durkin (Portland)

Referees table

	Games	Yell	Red	Ave
Willard	19	85	7	4.47
Reed	17	74	2	4.35
Rennie	18	75	6	4.17
Barber	20	81	5	4.05
Poll	19	75	8	3.95
Winter	17	67	2	3.94
Elleray	17	60	4	3.53
Dunn	15	52	2	3.47
Wilkie	21	69	2	3.29
Durkin	18	59	4	3.28
Riley	18	58	3	3.22
Bodenham	19	58	1	3.11
Barry	18	56	1	3.11
Alcock	18	56	1	3.11
Ashby	17	48	2	2.82
Jones	19	53	2	2.79
Gallagher	17	45	2	2.65
Ledger	19	49	2	2.58
Burge	18	45	4	2.50

Top supporters

	High	Low	Ave
Man Utd	55,306	55,006	55,164
Liverpool	44,532	34,709	40,183
Arsenal	38,205	37,324	38,036
Newcastle	36,783	36,289	36,570
Aston Villa	39,372	29,343	35,813
Everton	40,112	28,533	35,067
Leeds	39,982	28,791	34,322
Chelsea	34,690	29,075	33,228
Derby	30,251	25,825	28,979
Sheff Wed	39,427	21,087	28,403
Tottenham	35,624	25,087	28,346
Blackburn	30,547	19,086	25,039
West Ham	25,909	23,535	24,986
Bolton	25,000	22,703	24,347
Crystal Palace	26,186	14,410	22,218
Leicester	21,633	18,553	20,512
Coventry	23,054	15,900	19,880
Barnsley	19,692	17,102	18,413
Wimbledon	26,309	7,668	15,157
Southampton	15,256	14,815	15,157

FA Carling Premiership

		P	W	D	L (Home)	F	A	W	D	L (Away)	F	A	GD	Pts	Forthcoming fixtures
Arsenal	▲	33	13	2	2	38	10	7	7	2	23	18	33	69	26.4 Barnsley (a); 29.4 Derby (h); 3.5 Everton (h); 6.5 Liverpool (a)
Man Utd	▼	35	12	4	2	39	9	8	4	5	26	17	39	68	27.4 Crystal Palace (a); 4.5 Leeds (h); 10.5 Barnsley (a)
Liverpool	◄	34	11	2	4	33	16	5	9	3	25	21	21	59	26.4 Chelsea (a); 2.5 West Ham (h); 6.5 Arsenal (h); 10.5 Derby (a)
Chelsea	▼	34	11	2	3	31	12	7	1	10	33	26	26	57	26.4 Liverpool (h); 29.4 Blackburn (h); 2.5 Newcastle (a); 10.5 Bolton (h)
Leeds	▲	35	9	3	5	27	17	8	3	7	26	22	14	57	26.4 Coventry (h); 4.5 Man Utd (a); 10.5 Wimbledon (h)
West Ham	▲	34	12	4	1	34	11	3	3	11	13	31	5	52	26.4 Southampton (h); 2.5 Liverpool (a); 6.5 Crystal Palace (a); 10.5 Leicester (h)
Blackburn	▼	34	10	3	4	39	26	4	6	7	16	24	5	51	26.4 Wimbledon (h); 29.4 Chelsea (a); 2.5 Coventry (a); 10.5 Newcastle (h)
Aston Villa	▲	35	8	3	6	24	21	7	3	8	20	23	0	51	26.4 Bolton (h); 2.5 Sheff Wed (a); 10.5 Arsenal (h)
Derby	▼	34	11	3	3	32	14	3	4	10	17	30	5	49	26.4 Leicester (h); 29.4 Arsenal (a); 2.5 Southampton (a); 10.5 Liverpool (h)
Leicester	◄	34	5	9	3	20	15	6	4	7	23	22	6	46	26.4 Derby (a); 29.4 Newcastle (h); 2.5 Barnsley (h); 10.5 West Ham (a)
Coventry	◄	34	7	8	2	24	17	4	5	8	16	23	0	46	26.4 Leeds (a); 29.4 Wimbledon (h); 2.5 Blackburn (h); 10.5 Everton (a)
Southamptn	◄	35	10	1	7	28	21	3	4	10	17	29	-5	44	26.4 West Ham (a); 2.5 Derby (h); 10.5 Tottenham (a)
Wimbledon	◄	34	5	6	7	16	19	5	5	6	15	20	-8	41	26.4 Blackburn (a); 29.4 Coventry (a); 2.5 Tottenham (h); 10.5 Leeds (a)
Sheff Wed	◄	35	9	5	4	29	23	2	3	12	19	39	-14	41	26.4 Everton (a); 2.5 Aston Villa (h); 10.5 Crystal Palace (a)
Newcastle	◄	34	7	5	6	19	19	3	5	8	13	21	-8	40	26.4 Tottenham (a); 29.4 Leicester (a); 2.5 Chelsea (h); 10.5 Blackburn (a)
Everton	◄	35	7	4	6	23	23	2	8	8	16	25	-9	39	26.4 Sheff Wed (h); 3.5 Arsenal (a); 10.5 Coventry (h)
Tottenham	◄	35	6	7	4	20	21	3	3	12	15	32	-18	37	26.4 Newcastle (h); 2.5 Wimbledon (a); 10.5 Southampton (h)
Barnsley	▲	35	7	4	6	25	31	3	1	14	12	46	-40	35	26.4 Arsenal (h); 2.5 Leicester (a); 10.5 Man Utd (h)
Bolton	▼	35	6	8	4	20	20	1	5	11	13	36	-23	34	26.4 Aston Villa (a); 2.5 Crystal Palace (h); 10.5 Chelsea (a)
C Palace	◄	34	1	4	11	11	33	6	4	8	20	27	-29	29	27.4 Man Utd (h); 2.5 Bolton (a); 5.5 West Ham (h); 10.5 Sheff Wed (h)

Auto W'screens Shield

Final

Bournemouth .. (1)1 Bailey 31 — **Grimsby** ..... (0)2 Glass 75 (og), Burnett 112

(aet; 1–1 at 90min; Grimsby win on Golden Goal rule)
Bournemouth Glass, Young, Vincent, Howe, Cox, Bailey, Beardsmore (O'Neill 105), Robinson, Smith, Fletcher, Warren (Brissett 90). Sub (not used): Rolling.
Grimsby Davison, McDermott, Gallimore (Black 55), Handyside, Lever, Burnett, Donovan, Smith, Nogan (Jobling 93), Clare (Livingstone 55), Groves.
Att: 62,432. **Ref:** M E Pierce (Portsmouth).

Nationwide League

FIRST DIVISION

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Nottm Forest	44	27	9	8	80	41	90
Sunderland	43	24	12	7	81	47	84
Charlton	44	25	9	10	78	48	84
Middlesbrough	43	25	9	9	71	39	84
Ipswich	43	20	14	9	71	41	74
Sheff Utd	42	19	16	7	63	44	73
Birmingham	44	18	16	10	58	35	70
Wolverhampton	43	18	10	15	52	45	64
Stockport	44	17	8	19	66	66	59
Oxford Utd	44	16	10	18	59	56	58
West Brom	44	15	12	17	45	53	57
Huddersfield	44	14	11	19	50	65	53
Crewe	43	16	5	22	49	51	53
Tranmere	43	13	13	17	49	51	52
Swindon	44	14	10	20	41	66	52
Norwich	44	12	13	19	46	69	49
Bury	44	10	19	15	41	57	49
Port Vale	44	12	10	22	52	65	46
Stoke	44	11	13	20	42	65	46
Man City	44	11	11	22	49	53	44
Portsmouth	44	11	10	23	45	62	43
Reading	44	11	9	24	39	78	42

Birmingham (2)3 *Furlong 9, 34 (pen)* — **Swindon** ..... (0)0 Hughes 62
Birmingham City Bennett, Gill, Charlton, Bruce (Purse 88), Johnson, Marsden, McCarthy, O'Connor (Robinson 69), Adebola, Hughes, Furlong (Forster 85).
Swindon Town Digby, Kerslake, Davis, Taylor, Bullock, Borrows, Walters, Collins (Goodlad 46), Hay (Cuervo 77), Finney (Cowe 53), Robinson.
Att: 17,016. **Ref:** W C Burns (Scarborough).

Bradford C .. (1)1 Steiner 18 — **QPR** ..... (0)1 Gallen 48
Bradford City Welch, McAnespie, Jacobs, Ramage, Sinnott, O'Brien, Lawrence, Pepper (Murray 27), Steiner (Grant 78), Edinho, Blake. Sub (not used): Davis.
QPR Harper, Bardsley, Barraclough, Jones, Ready, Ruddock, Kulcsar (Slade 69), Gallen, Sheron, Gallen, Scully. Sub (not used): Roberts, Heinola.
Att: 14,671. **Ref:** C J Foy (St Helens).

Charlton ..... (0)1 B Jones 67 — **Portsmth** ..... (0)0
Charlton Athletic Ilic, Mills, Bowen, K. Jones, Rufus, Youds, Newton, Kinsella, S. Jones (Brown 89), Mendonca, Heaney. Sube (not used): Barness, Emblen.
Portsmouth Nelson, Pethick, Robinson, McLoughlin, Whitbread, Awford, Vlachos, Igoe (Svensson 76), Aloisi (Hall 67), Durnin, Thomson. Sub (not used): Waterman.
Att: 14,082. **Ref:** J A Kirkby (Sheffield).

Huddersfld (1)1 Baldry 12 — **W.B.A.** ..... (0)0
Huddersfield Town Harper, Phillips, Edwards, Richardson, Collins, Gray, Baldry (Dyson 86), Horne, Stewart, Allison, Johnson. Subs (not used): Nielsen, Lawson.
West Bromwich Albion Adamson, McDermott, Van Blerk, Flynn, Beesley, Carbon (Murphy 38), Quinn, Nicol (Sneekes 78), Hunt, Hughes, Kilbane. Sub (not used): Coldicott.
Att: 11,704. **Ref:** A P D'Urso (Billericay).

Ipswich ..... (3)5 Johnson 4, 58 Petta 27, 29 Matteo 56 — **Port Vale** ..... (0)1 Barnett 65
Ipswich Town Wright, Stockwell, Tarkoto (Tanner 75), Dyer, Venus, Cundy, Clapham, Holland, Johnson (Scowcroft 76), Mathie, Petta (Sonner 84).
Port Vale Musselwhite, Carragher, Tankard, Bogie, Glover, Barnett, Ainsworth, Talbot, Mills, Naylor (Foyle 46), Jansson (Porter 46). Sub (not used): Corden.
Att: 18,205. **Ref:** P Taylor (Cheshunt).

Oxford ..... (1)1 Cook 22 — **Transmere** ..... (0)1 Mahon 69
Oxford United Whitehead, Robinson, Smith (Wright 79), Gray, Davis, Ford, Murphy, Banger (Weatherstone 74), Francis, Powell, Cook. Sub (not used): Rose.
Tranmere Rovers Simonsen, Kubicki, Thompson, McGreal, Challinor, Irons, Morrissey (Mahon 60), Mellon, Jones, O'Brien, Hill (Parkinson 38). Sub (not used): Morgan.
Att: 6,489. **Ref:** M R Halsey (Welwyn Garden City).

Sheff Utd ..... (1)3 Stuart 29 (pen) Saunders 78, 85 — **Bury** ..... (0)0
Sheffield United Kelly, Borbokis, Quinn, Ford (Wilder 36), Sandford, Holdsworth, Saunders, Marker, Dellas, Marcelino (Katchouro 89), Stuart. Sub (not used): Devlin.
Bury Kiely, Woodward (Rigby 82), Small, Dawe, Lucketti, Butler, Ellis, Matthews (Battersby 76), Swain, Johnrose, Armstrong. Sub (not used): Jackson.
Att: 16,056. **Ref:** S J Baines (Chesterfield).

Stockport ..... (1)2 Angell 29, 67 — **Nottm For** ..... (1)2 Van Hooijdonk 26 Johnson 87
Stockport County Nixon, Connelly, Searle, Byrne, Flynn, McMaster, Cook, Travis (Phillips 83), Angell, Wilbraham (Grant 90), Cooper. Sub (not used): Gray.
Nottingham Forest Bassett, Bonalair, Rogers, Hjelde, Chettle, Johnson, Stone, Gemmill, Van Hooijdonk, Campbell (Woan 88), Bart-Williams. Sub (not used): Pascoe, Armstrong.
Att: 9,892. **Ref:** P S Danson (Leicester).

Stoke ..... (1)2 Sigurdsson 19 Lightbourne 50 — **Norwich** ..... (0)0
Stoke City Southall, Pickering, Tiatto, Sigurdsson, Tweed, Keen, Heath, Wallace, Lightbourne (Thorne 76), Crowe, Kavanagh. Subs (not used): Hologrove, Whittle.
Norwich City Marshall, Sutch, Fuglestad (Polston 85), Segura (Coote 69), Scott, Jackson, Adams, Bellamy, Roberts, Fenn (Grant 54), Llewellyn.
Att: 13,098. **Ref:** G Cain (Bootle).

Sunderland .. (2)2 Ball 4 Clark 22 — **Crewe** ..... (1)1 Charnock 30
Sunderland Perez, Holloway, Gray, Clark, Craddock, Williams, Summerbee, Ball, Quinn, Phillips, Johnston. Subs (not used): Oldto, Rae, Makin.
Crewe Alexandra Kearton, Bignot, Johnson, Foran (Lightfoot 56), Walton, Charnock, Garvey, Whiteley (Lunt 77), Anthrobus, Little (Wright 72), Strode.
Att: 40,441. **Ref:** J P Robinson (Hull).

Wolves ..... (1)3 Muscat 9 Goodman 69, 90 — **Reading** ..... (1)1 Brayson 44
Wolverhampton Wanderers Segers, Muscat, Naylor, Stoker (Bull 57), Sedgley, Curle, Simpson, Robinson (Atkins 57), Goodman, Claridge (Keane 84), Osborn.
Reading Royals, Crawford, Gray, Lovell, Primus, Parkinson, Mosser (Morley 67), Oakley, Brayson, McIntyre, Lambert. Subs (not used): Seales, Davies.
Att: 19,785. **Ref:** T Heilbron (Newton Aycliffe).

FIRST DIVISION PLAY-OFFS

Bristol Rovers Premier Division
Ballymena 1 Portadown 2; Cliftonville 1 Glentoran 1; Coleraine 0 Linfield 0; Crusaders 2 Omagh Tn 2; Glenavon 0 Ards 0.
Ulster Division
Omagh Tn 2 Larne 0; Carrick 1 Bangor 2; Dungannon Swifts 2 Limavady Utd 1; Newry 1 Distillery 1 (Newry promoted to Premier Div).
FAI NATIONAL LEAGUE: Premier Division
Finn Harps 1 UCD 2; Kilkenny C 1 Derry C 0; Sligo Rvrs 4 Cork C 1; Shamrock Rvrs 0 St Patrick's Ath 1.

Nationwide League

SECOND DIVISION

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
*Bristol City	44	24	10	10	68	38	82
*Watford	43	22	15	6	63	39	81
Fulham	44	20	10	14	59	40	70
Grimsby	43	18	14	11	54	35	68
Bristol Rovers	44	19	10	15	68	62	67
Northampton	44	17	16	11	51	37	67
Wrexham	44	17	16	12	52	50	66
Gillingham	44	18	12	14	51	47	66
Chesterfield	44	18	16	13	44	42	63
Bournemouth	43	16	12	15	52	48	60
Blackpool	44	16	10	18	57	68	58
Wigan	43	16	9	18	62	65	57
Wycombe	44	13	17	14	49	52	56
Preston	44	14	13	17	54	55	55
York	44	13	16	15	50	57	55
Oldham	43	13	15	15	55	51	54
Walsall	43	14	12	17	42	47	54
Millwall	44	14	12	18	42	52	54
Luton	44	13	14	17	55	60	53
Plymouth	44	12	13	19	54	67	49
Brentford	44	11	16	17	47	67	49
Burnley	43	12	12	19	49	59	48
Carlisle	43	12	8	23	54	67	44
Southend	44	11	10	23	48	74	43

*=Bristol City and Watford promoted

Brentford ..... (0)0 — **Wigan** ..... (0)2 Bradshaw 54 (pen) Kilford 68
Brentford Dearden, Hutchings, Watson, Blaney (Dennis 73), Bates, Hogg, Rapley, Cockerill (Bryan 68), Scott, Aspinall, Thompson. Sub (not used): McGhee.
Wigan Athletic Carroll, Martinez (Sheets 86), Sharp, Greenall, Newman, Bradshaw, Lee, Rogers, Barlow (Warne 76), Kilford (McGibbon 86), Lowe.
Att: 4,480. **Ref:** M S Pike (Barrow-in-Furness).

Bristol R .. (2)2 Beadle 5 Tillson 32 — **Luton** ..... (0)1 Oldfield 75
Bristol Rovers Jones, Prichard, Lockwood, Holloway, Foster, Tillson, Zebek, Ramasut, Beadle, Curaton, Hayles. Subs (not used): Penrice, Perry, Bennett.
Luton Town Davis, James (White 15), Thomas, Waddock (Spring 70), Davies, Patterson, Marshall (Douglas 62), Evers, Oldfield, Allen, Alexander.
Att: 8,038. **Ref:** A R Leake (Darwen).

Burnley ..... (1)2 Cooke 2 Payton 83 — **Fulham** ..... (1)1 Moody 35
Burnley Woods, Weller, Winstanley, Harrison, Moore, Little (Brass 89), Mullin, Ford, Cooke, Payton (Vinnicombe 85), Matthew. Sub (not used): Hoyland.
Fulham Taylor, Lawrence, Brevett, Smith, Coleman, Blake, Beardsley, Brazewell, Moody, Peschisolido (Thorpe 65), Brazier (Trollope 89). Sub (not used): Hayward.
Att: 9,745. **Ref:** D Pugh (Wirral).

Chesterfld .. (1)1 Williams 44 — **Bristol City** ..... (0)0
Chesterfield Marcer, Howitt, Perkins, Curtis, Williams, Carr (Brackin 80), Wills, Howard, Reeves, Wilkinson (Lomas 84), Beaumont. Sub (not used): Lenagh.
Bristol City Welch (Paterson 22), Locke, Bell, Goodridge, Edwards, Carey, Owers, Doherty (Murray 71), McCarthy, Cramb, Tinnion. Sub (not used): Hewlett.
Att: 6,065. **Ref:** R Pearson (Peterlee).

Gillingham .. (1)1 Akinbiyi 44 — **Wrexham** ..... (1)1 Wilson 16
Gillingham Bartram, Patterson, Pennock, Smith, Ashby, Bryant, Hessenthaler, Galloway, Butler (Fortune-West 88), Akinbiyi, Southall (Corbett 58). Sub (not used): Green.
Wrexham Marriott, McGregor, Hardy, Brammer, Humes, Spink, Chalk, Wilson, Connolly, Roberts, Ward. Subs (not used): Williams, Skinner, Owen.
Att: 7,869. **Ref:** A N Butler (Sutton-in-Ashfield).

Plymouth .. (1)1 Saunders 45 — **Northmptn** ..... (1)3 Freestone 47, 8, 90
Plymouth Argyle Sheffield, Wotton (Mauge 66), Rowbotham, Saunders (Starbuck 79), Heathcote, Logan, Barlow, Currie, Corden (Jean 66), Corazzin, Billy.
Northampton Town Woodman, Clarkson, Frain, Sampson, Warburton, Hunt, Peer, Bishop, Seal (Gibb 89), Freestone, Hill. Subs (not used): Dozzell, Wilson.
Att: 6,366. **Ref:** K A Leach (Wolverhampton).

Preston ..... (1)3 Eyres 23 Parkinson 60 Macken 90 — **Blackpool** ..... (2)3 Clarkson 3, 65 Hills 45
Preston North End McIlenen, Parkinson, Barrick, Murdock, McKenna, Gregan, Rankine, Davey, Ashcroft, Macken, Eyres (Nogan 46). Subs (not used): Holt, Moyes.
Blackpool Banks, Bryan, Hills, Butler, Hughes, Linighan, Philbott, Clarkson, Taylor (Carroll 64), Bent (Brabin 51), Preece. Sub (not used): Carlisle.
Att: 13,500. **Ref:** P Rejer (Tipton).

Walsall ..... (0)0 — **Oldham** ..... (0)0
Walsall Walker, Evans, Marsh, Viveash, Mountfield (Ryder 69), Peron (Ricketts 38), Bell, Sydelle, Thatcher, Porter, Hodge. Sub (not used): Nalebito.
Oldham Athletic Grobbelar, Bossil, Barrett, Garnett, Graham, Redmond, Crlargeson, Duxbury (Rickers 40), Jepson (Holt 81), Allott, Reid. Sub (not used): McNiven.
Att: 3,582. **Ref:** S G Bennett (Redhill).

Wycombe .. (0)0 — **Millwall** ..... (0)0
Wycombe Wanderers Taylor, Kavanah, Beeton, Ryan, Cousins, Mohan, Carroll, Scott, Reed, Hankin, Brown (Cornforth 75). Subs (not used): Hodson, Simpson.
Millwall Sprink, Brown, Ryan, Bowry, Fitzgerald, Witter, Lavin, Doyle, Grant (Savage 78), Shaw, Hockton (Wilkinson 72). Sub (not used): Allen.
Att: 5,571. **Ref:** F G Stretton (Nottingham)

York ..... (0)1 Tolson 74 — **Southend** ..... (1)1 Beere 33
York City Warrington, McMillan, Hall, Reed, Jones, Thompson, Poulton, Jordan, Tolson, Cresswell, Hinsworth (Howe 60). Subs (not used): Garrett, Bull.
Southend United Royce, Hails, Stimson (Jones 78), Rogel, Coleman, Dublin, Maher, Gridelet (Coulbault 87), Beere, Aldridge, Clarke. Sub (not used): Harris.
Att: 2,850. **Ref:** G Laws (Whitley Bay).

N-W COUNTIES LEAGUE

Premier Division: Curzon Ashton 3 Pickering Tn 0; Eccleshill Utd 1 Brigg Tn 4; Glossop 1 Goole 0; Hyde Utd 1 Harrogate Tn 1; Holker Old Boys 1 Kidsgrove Ath 2; Nantwich Tn 4 Darwen 1; Prescot Cables 1 Salford C 1; Ramsbottom Utd 1 Glossop NE 3; Rossendale Utd 0 Vauxhall GM 3.

NORTHERN COUNTIES EAST LEAGUE

Premier Division: Curzon Ashton 3 Pickering Tn 0; Eccleshill Utd 1 Brigg Tn 4; Glasshoughton Wel 0 Cleethorpes Tn 1; Harrogate Tn 1 Worksop Tn 1; Ossett Alb 1; Harrogate Tn 1; Hucknall Tn 3 Liversedge 0; Maltby MW 0 Arnold Tn 0; N Ferriby Utd 1 Denaby Utd 2; Ossett Tn 6 Pontefract Cole 1; Thackley 1 Selby Tn 3.

SCREDFOX DIRECT LEAGUES

Premier Division: Brislington 2 Backwell Utd 0; Bristol MF 1 Bideford 2; Calne Tn 0 Bridgwater Tn 2; Chard Tn 0 Tiverton Tn 5; Elmore 2 Chippenham Tn 1; Mangotsfield Utd 3 Torrington 0; Paulton Rvrs 1 Barnstaple Tn 1; Taunton Tn 1 Melksham Tn 0; Westbury Utd 2 Brixport 1; Odd Down 3 Elmore 0; Tiverton Tn 6 Westbury Utd 1; Torrington 0 Melksham Tn 3.

S-E COUNTIES LEAGUE: First Division

Cambridge Utd 1 Norwich C 2; Crystal Palace 1 Millwall 6; Fulham 1 Charlton Ath 2; Leyton Orient 3 OPR 1; Portsmouth 4 Ipswich 0; Tottenham 2 West Ham 1; Watford 3 Southend Utd 1. **Second Division:** Brentford 2 Oxford Utd 0; Swindon 1 Southampton 0; Wycombe 0 Reading 3. **Postponed:** Tottenham v Brighton.

WELSH CUP: Semi-finals: Bangor C 2 Newtown 1; Barry Tn 1 Cornah's Quay 2.

LEAGUE OF WALES: Caernarfon 1 Rhyl 1; Caersws 0 Rhayader Tn 1; Cemaes Bay 1 TNS 5; Conwy 1 Porthmadog 0; Haverfordwest 0 Inter Cable-Tel 2.

HIGHLAND LEAGUE: Clachnacuddin 2 Deveronvale 3; Fort William 0 Peterhead 3; Fraserburgh 2 Wick Ac 0; Huntly 2 Elgin C 1.

Nationwide League

THIRD DIVISION

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
*Notts County	44	29	11	5	75	39	98
Macclesfield	44	21	13	10	57	41	76
Torquay	44	20	11	13	64	56	71
Colchester	44	20	10	14	70	59	70
Scarborough	44	19	13	12	66	57

هكذا من الاصل

Premiership

Prayer answered . . . Petit offers his thanks ADRIAN DENNIS

Arsenal 5 Wimbledon 0

Gunners reach an advanced stage

Plaudits for Petit . . . the French midfielder is swamped by team-mates after scoring his first goal for Arsenal PHOTOGRAPH: STU FORSTER

DAVID LACEY

THE way Arsenal brushed past Wimbledon on Saturday, closing in on a Premiership title which appears theirs for the taking after seven successive wins in an unbeaten run of 15 games, recalled a match at Anfield 10 years ago. Liverpool, then in their pomp under Kenny Dalglish, so outclassed the Arsenal of George Graham that the watching Michel Platini was moved to describe them as the only English team playing truly European football.

When Platini was invited to comment on the losers' style he gave a little smile and offered an up-and-over gesture which said it all. It is safe to assume that Arsène Wenger's multi-national Arsenal might elicit a more flattering response from his fellow-Frenchman, for the football which is promising to bring the championship to Highbury during the next three weeks is as advanced for the game in England of the Nineties as was the way Liverpool were playing in the late Eighties.

There are similarities. At the heart of Wenger's team lies efficient goalkeeping and solid defending, just as Dalglish had Bruce Grobbelaar's clean sheets, and Alan Hansen and Steve Nicol in the back four. In midfield, for Patrick Vieira and Emmanuel Petit, read Ronnie Whelan and Steve McMahon, hardly comparable in style, maybe, but each a partnership able to switch from defence to offence with an economy of effort so important in counter-attacking teams.

That season Dalglish had John Barnes and Peter Beardsley combining to feed the prolific goalscoring habits of John Aldridge while finding the net more than 30 times themselves. This season, with Ian Wright's goals drying up once he had passed Cliff Bastin's Highbury record, and an injury restricting him to one appearance as a substitute since mid-January, Arsenal's scoring has been apportioned along similar lines: 21 for Dennis Bergkamp, 12 for Marc Overmars, 11 for Wright and nine for Nicolas Anelka.

Whether or not Wenger's Arsenal are better than the best produced under Dalglish at Liverpool it is far too early to say. After all, the championship has not returned to Highbury yet and Arsenal have been playing at their present level for less than two months, their excellent form of last autumn notwithstanding. But the promise of the Premiership being represented in next season's Champions League by football of the style and quality the Champions Cup was denied in 1988, when the post-Heysel ban was still in force, is an exciting one.

This is not to diminish either Graham's quintessentially English side that won the championship in 1989 and 1991 or Manchester United's four titles in the past five years, and even if Alex Ferguson's team are not top this time they will almost certainly appear in the Champions League qualifying round as runners-up. But should Arsenal win the championship, and another nine points will be enough, it will be because, to the passion and commitment so highly valued by Ferguson, Wenger has added patience, perception and an emphasis on possession which Highbury was not seeing even last September when PAOK Salonika knocked his team out of the Uefa Cup.

In the end so much is down to personnel. Before Christmas Eric Cantona's retirement and Roy Keane's injury hardly came into the equation at Old Trafford as Manchester United forged ahead at home and abroad. But now, with Arsenal back at the top of the table for the first time in six months and inspired by Bergkamp and Vieira, United's apprentices are badly missing the sorcerer's touch and the ramrod's thrust.

There is about Vieira almost a Brazilian mixture of strength and skill, athleticism and grace, which should make him the Footballer of the Year if Bergkamp, the players' choice, does not get it — and Petit ought not to be far behind either man. Wimbledon had not lost in nine visits to Arsenal but their defence and midfield simply melted away. At least Vinnie Jones would have given the opposition a dirty look.

A looping header from Tony Adams, a soft but well-directed shot from Overmars and a routine finish from Bergkamp had ended the contest by the 19th minute. Early in the second half Petit's overdue first goal for Arsenal rounded off a studious movement set up by David Seaman's extraordinary, if unintentional, pass to Bergkamp up the right-hand touchline, after he had made a Grobbelaar-like dash beyond the penalty area.

Christopher Wreh's impudent postscript, the Liberian coming off the bench to flick Lee Dixon's long ball away from Neil Sullivan and Brian McAllister, head it into the net and then perform his usual somersault, left Highbury ecstatic and even Wenger conceded that "joy and excitement came out of this game".

A sense of recent history demands that on May 6 Arsenal become champions at Anfield, where they pipped Liverpool for the title in 1989. But it may be all over by then.

After Saturday's visit to Barnsley Arsenal's next two games are at home, and Leeds are at Old Trafford a fortnight today. So Graham could again have a final say in the destination of the championship.

Crystal Palace 3
Derby County 1

El Tel back to his roots at Selhurst

Mark Redding on the changing guard at Palace as they win at last at home

POL POT's death was a worldwide revelation, and peace in Northern Ireland came as something of a shock, but Crystal Palace winning at home — now that is momentous news.

Almost enough, in fact, to overshadow Terry Venables's announcement that next season he is to take charge at the ground where he began his coaching career.

There he built the so-called Team of the Eighties, whom he took from Third to the old First Division before jumping ship in 1980 for Queens Park Rangers.

The former England and present Australia coach has agreed a deal worth £600,000 a year with Palace's prospective new owner Mark Goldberg. Palace's stand-in player-manager Attilio Lombardo will step down amicably at the end of the current campaign.

"I said from minute one that I was not going to carry on after the end of the season," the Italian said on Saturday. "I want to go back to being a player because player-manager is a difficult job."

The deal is dependent on Goldberg, who made his fortune with the computer staff recruitment agency MSB International, completing his £27 million takeover of the club this year. He has made one payment so far of £10 million and has until the end of May to make another.

"It has taken me some time to make up my mind but Palace have always been my first love," said Venables, 55, who has one match with Australia before his contract expires this summer.

"I have played there and managed there and I am looking forward to going back. I will be given a five-year contract and I am looking forward to turning the club around."

It seems that Venables will be starting work in the First Division. Palace are eight points adrift of safety with only four games left, although the impressive manner of their victory over Derby County has given them hope for the future.

At least it spared them the ignominy of being the first side to go through a season without a league win at home.

Palace's triumph means they have now equalled the unwanted record of Loughborough Town, who in 1899-90 managed only one home victory in the old Second Division.

Next up at Selhurst Park are Manchester United a week today and on this form who would bet against the home side?

For once Palace clicked into place. The goalkeeping was solid, the five-man defence assured and the forwards forever foraging. But it was in the midfield that the game was won, Sasa Curcic putting in what he said was his best game since leaving Bolton Wanderers two years ago in an ill-fated £4 million transfer to Aston Villa.

In the 73rd minute Curcic set up the vital opening goal when he rode two tackles on the left and drifted in a delicious cross that Neil Shipperley nodded down perfectly for Matt Jansen to score.

Curcic claimed the second seven minutes later and, although Lars Bohinen set the Selhurst nerves jangling with a long-range strike for Derby, Marcus Bent made the game safe in injury-time.

It was a sweet ending, for Curcic especially. By signing the £1 million Serb on deadline day Palace have allowed the rest of the Premiership a chance to see what they have missed out on.

"The fans here have given me a chance to rebuild my life," he said. "That's why I was very emotional after my goal — I just wanted to break down. I could not believe that a player like me could not get a game at Villa but I think I proved today that I am worth £4 million." And some.

West Ham United 2 Blackburn Rovers 1

Hartson leaves ticket for Europe

Russell Thomas

JOHN HARTSON will remember his two-goal farewell as he repents at leisure during the final three weeks of the season. Blackburn Rovers will remember it too, as Roy Hodgson orders retribution on the training ground for two sins too many.

West Ham United's leading scorer was not exactly absolved by his manager Harry Redknapp for his sending-off the week before but this performance eases the pain. Nothing eased the pain for Hodgson, who reacted to this latest defeat like a manager whose dignity had been insulted.

Even without Hartson, this promises to be the season in which West Ham rediscover Europe. For Blackburn, surrendering sixth place to their conquerors, it threatens to be a season disintegrating into regret and recrimination with the keys to the continent thrown away. The team who little more than two months ago were touted as the most likely to upstage Manchester United are struggling to grasp the last Uefa Cup place.

Afterwards Hodgson described Blackburn's decline as "a disastrous scenario". Blackburn's manager strongly suggested it was as much a waste of energy and time talking to his team as it was to the press conference. So inconsolable was he that he insisted: "There is nothing I can say or you can say that we will make me feel better".

Hodgson managed to close on a more upbeat but routine note. "We'll work hard; I have got great heart for the last four games." Whether his declining team, slumping to their sixth defeat in seven games, share that sentiment remains to be seen. They owe it to their manager. Their season, without the excuse of European combat, threatens to be the most wasted of all.

Redknapp offered conciliatory words to Blackburn, his mind fresh with the late pressure that almost deprived West Ham of two points. "Europe is still very open," he said, "and Blackburn are still right in the picture." But Redknapp has a more optimistic map reading. "We're in Dover," he chirped at lunchtime on Saturday. By tea-time West Ham were presumably close to Calais.

"That was the real John Hartson," purred Redknapp of the powerful yet controlled performance of the Welshman who leads the Premiership's overall scoring chart with 24 goals. "When he does that, there is no one better; just ask Colin Hendry, who is a tremendous centre-half".

Hodgson reckoned "abominable" defending contributed to both Hartson's goals. Neutral observers credited the 23-year-old striker with confident finishing, from a sweeping shot and side-footed volley, the first after glorious approach work involving Rio Ferdinand's perceptive through-ball and Eyal Berkovic's precise cross.

Blackburn's goal was scruffy by comparison, Jason Wilcox shooting in off the far post after Ian Pearce lost possession. Chris Sutton's performance was also untidy, largely a grappling contest with the same West Ham defender which culminated in a needless booking for dissent.

● Injuries have forced Blackburn's Damien Duff, Crewe's Gareth Whalley and Tranmere's David Kelly to withdraw from the Republic of Ireland squad to play Argentina in a friendly at Lansdowne Road on Wednesday.

Barnsley 1 Tottenham Hotspur 1

Drawing power deepens Barnsley fears

Michael Walker

NINETY minutes of hectic huff and puff, umpteen chances and scrambles at both ends, five bookings, one red card, two goals and two points. At the end Barnsley and Tottenham Hotspur were not much further on. The supposed six-pointer turned out to be one apiece and, while it lifted Barnsley above Bolton, Danny Wilson's side remain below that thick black line in the table.

They are still only a Barnsley win and a Spurs defeat away from salvation but even the most enthusiastic of Tykes must have looked at the run-in on Saturday night — Arsenal and Manchester United at home, Leicester City away — and played spot-the-victory.

At ten to five, with the passion still pumping, it had seemed more straightforward to the Oakwell faithful hanging and haranguing from the edge of the metal enclosed corridor that takes the players from pitch to main stand. "You can still do it, you can still do it," was the inflamed cry as each knackered possessor of a red shirt dragged himself by.

The tone of desperation was unmissable and it may have pricked the conscience of the Tottenham players too, for the plea was almost as applicable to them. Not for nothing did Jürgen Klinsmann refer to "a golden point" afterwards — the German, having broken his jaw here in February, knows how hostile Oakwell can be — but in all likelihood it will be meaningless if Spurs do not gather more from their remaining three matches, at home to Newcastle and Southampton and away to Wimbledon. Their cushion is an uncomfortable two points and it needs puffing up by better displays than this combination of flash and flimsiness.

The former came from David Ginola, once again committed (the joke on Tyneside is that Spurs must have undertaken a thorough medical examination of the Frenchman as they appear to have found his heart) although a diffident last-minute finish when one-on-one with David Watson rather spoiled the overall impression.

Vega . . . posted missing

The latter was personified by the performances of Ramon Vega, whose backside is bigger than that of the average winner at Cheltenham — if only Vega had that pedigree — and Nicola Berti, an Italian with very nice hair. It did not require washing, in contrast to that of the man he was "marking", Neil Redfearn. It was Redfearn's goal, his 14th of a grand season, which had Spurs creaking in a furious Barnsley first half.

After 19 minutes Redfearn swept the ball high past Ian Walker after Martin Bullock's corkscrew run had left Sol Campbell on his rear, yet Campbell deserved sympathy as he was probably wondering where Vega was. Had Eric Tinkler nodded Redfearn's free-kick an inch inside Walker's post rather than outside it five minutes before half-time, it is hard to imagine a Tottenham comeback.

But Tinkler's miss meant Colin Calderwood's diverting of Allan Nielsen's shot was the equaliser. Vega did his best to undermine the recovery, getting himself sent off for up-ending the excellent Ashley Ward, but Barnsley lacked the guile to exploit their numerical advantage and looked the unhappier on the final whistle.

Wilson was optimistic, though — "in this game you never know" — while Tottenham's players prepared themselves for another week of dialogue with Christian Gross — Les Ferdinand came close to saying that they have meetings about meetings at White Hart Lane — but at least Klinsmann took his half-time substitution on the chin. "Of course I accepted it," he said of Gross's decision, "I always accepted it."

In the context of relegation, it was the first time such words have been heard at Oakwell this season.

Southampton 1 Aston Villa 2

Fair stands Le Tissier's shot for France

Jeremy Alexander

ALL day, every day, crosses are headed out of packed penalty areas to the edge and no one in particular. After 20 minutes at The Dell, with Villa leading through Lee Hendrie's roasting of Richard Dryden, Steve Staunton cleared so. Ninety-nine times out of a hundred the ball, if met with a shot, is wide, high or blocked. From 20 yards, volleyed on the run, it found the top right of the net like a sunbeam.

Matt Le Tissier has been scoring like this for years. This was his 150th league goal. He had a part in the build-up too, though credit for possession went to Carlton Palmer at his most tarantulous. One goal should not win a World Cup place. One could win a World Cup match. If England cannot create goals out of something, they will have to get them out of nothing.

Le Tissier won the last of his eight caps against Italy in the 1-0 qualifying defeat at Wembley, a surprise choice on form, hardly vindicated but indicative of Glenn Hoddle's recognition of the need for the unexpected. The same need will obtain in France.

In Alan Shearer's last three seasons at Southampton Le Tissier outscored him 45 to 20. He still moves like a caravan on tow, with a shambling, rocking deception and a sleight of foot that was so influential that Villa sacrificed Ian Taylor to man-mark him. A new macrobiotic diet seems to suit him. He shows a stronger pulse. Tiss meanz biz.

Hoddle, though, has said he will go to France only if he "ends up getting four or five players in a similar mould getting injured". Le Tissier is in a mould of his own, a gambler's luxury. If Hoddle is seriously thinking Gazza in his present condition, Le Tissier is an even better bet in his. They could do a half each. Better variety than cloned journeymen on the bench. Probably, ludicrously, Le Tissier needs to get a hat-trick in tomorrow's B international against Russia to stand a chance.

His goal was matched in its certainty by Dwight Yorke's winner on the hour, a side-footed volley in his stride. Unfortunately, with a carbon-copy chance a minute later, sureness became scuff, confidence over-confidence. Southampton had just lost Dryden and were improvising at the back. Their manager Dave Jones said the loss showed the squad was "still two or three players short". The presence of Dryden showed much the same. But Southampton, despite one point from four games, are still safe.

Villa, with eight league wins from nine games since John Gregory took over in crisis, are still looking at Europe. The new manager was blessed by an early injury to Stan Collymore. Villa are back to their old verve without him, Lee Hendrie repaying an extended run with ever greater effort and effect. He, too, is in tomorrow's England B squad. With luck Hoddle, unable to cover lack of quality with quantity in his A squad, has played a trick: for France he will take the B all and end all.

Top gunner
David Lacey on Arsenal's rise to head the table
page 15

Other pages
Racing 13
Football 14,15
Running 16
Cricket 16

The Guardian
Sport
Monday April 20 1998 www.football.guardian.co.uk

Injury-time kick keeps Premiership title chase alive

Friendly foes . . . Andrew, left, and Lynagh MARTIN HAYHOW

Out of reach . . . even Doddie Weir's fingertips cannot prevent Michael Lynagh's last-minute drop goal at Vicarage Road PHOTOGRAPH: MARK LEECH

Saracens 12 Newcastle 10

Lynagh's drop gives Saracens last word

Robert Armstrong sees the Australian gain some revenge over Rob Andrew

SARACENS owed a heartfelt debt of gratitude to the 34-year-old Michael Lynagh for keeping alive their prospects of a league and cup double yesterday. The Australian fly-half scored an astonishing last-minute drop goal at Vicarage Road that delighted a crowd of 20,000, a record for an English league game.

Powerless to stop Lynagh was his opposite number Rob Andrew, whose late drop goal against Australia in the World Cup three years ago put England into the semi-finals and helped end Lynagh's international career.

Lynagh, who retires at the end of the season, not only rescued Saracens from defeat but kicked three penalties in a nailbiting contest that hung on a knife's edge.

But the London side paid a heavy price for their success, losing Francois Pienaar with a damaged hamstring and Kyran Bracken with an injured groin, injuries that could keep them out of next Saturday's match against Leicester at Welford Road.

The win, though, put them level on points with Newcastle, who stay leaders on points difference, with a game in hand. Newcastle's match against Wasps at Loftus Road on Wednesday gives the Tynesiders an early opportunity to forge ahead again before they play Bristol at home next Sunday.

No one could deny, however, that the day belonged to the ice-cool Lynagh, whose 247 points this season have underpinned Saracens' Premiership challenge.

"When I got the ball nothing else was on, so I just let fly and it sailed over," Lynagh said of his all-important drop goal from 40 metres. "On Friday I finished my kicking practice with half a dozen dropped goals all from a similar position."

Saracens, though, were not at their best, as Mark Evans, their director of rugby, acknowledged. In spite of abundant enterprise fore and aft they lost their way in the final quarter and failed to score a try for only the second time this season. "It would be a huge blow to have to go on without Francois," Evans admitted. "All we can do now is try to win our remaining matches and see what happens with Newcastle."

The extreme tension of the occasion always made it hard for both sides to live up to the pre-match hype, which was marked by the Mars suite from Holst's The Planets relayed over the public address system. Handling and kicking mistakes tended to proliferate as both pairs of half-backs worked feverishly to galvanise their three-quarters and exploit signs of fallibility in the opposition's defence.

Saracens briefly gained the upper hand, pressing Newcastle with a series of sweeping attacks on a broad front that threatened to produce a try. It needed a prompt, vigorous response by Newcastle's pack to stop the hosts driving over their line from a line-out in the right corner. Later only a crunching midfield tackle by Dean Ryan broke up a promising Saracens move in front of the posts.

Saracens broke the deadlock in what had become a tight, uncompromising battle with a 21st-minute penalty which Lynagh was relieved to chip between the uprights after Newcastle fell offside inside their 22.

Nine minutes later Newcastle responded with a penalty for killing the ball, Andrew, their director of rugby, steering it home carefully. With half an hour gone the prospect of a try by either side had receded markedly.

Neither side wanted for positive attacking ideas with Saracens' Danny Grewcock winning plenty of clean line-out ball and Doddie Weir performing the same function for Newcastle. However, no sooner had the ball dropped into the hands of Lynagh or Andrew than their markers were poised to make a great hit, sometimes with extra back-up from their teammates. In view of the pressure both playmakers did well to create movement and set up fresh attacking options as often as they did.

On the stroke of half-time Lynagh notched Saracens into a 6-3 lead with a short-range penalty after a Newcastle forward dived over the top but their fans' joy was quickly tempered as Saracens began the second half without Pienaar and Bracken, replaced by Alex Bennett and Marcus Olsen respectively.

The same unyielding pattern of play prevailed until the final quarter of an hour when a sudden flurry of scoring brought much-needed lustre into a contest that was dying on its feet.

Lynagh put Saracens further ahead with a short-range penalty for offside before Newcastle plundered the only try of the afternoon 11 minutes from the end with a marvellous piece of coordinated teamwork. When Jim Naylor broke strongly to set up a ruck on the right the ball was quickly channelled out to Jonny Wilkinson, whose long cut-out pass found the flanker Pat Lam. The hard-running Samoan abruptly changed direction and finished up with a merited try to the left of the posts which Andrew converted. Cue Lynagh, who duly obliged with a powerfully flighted drop kick from the 10-metre line which sailed straight between the posts. Game, set and match for Saracens.

SCORERS: Saracens: Penalties: Lynagh 3. **Drop goal:** Lynagh. **Newcastle: Try:** Lam. **Conversion:** Andrew. **Penalty:** Andrew.

Saracens: Johnson; Constable, Sella, Ravenscroft, R Wallace; Lynagh, Bracken (Olsen, 41min); Grau, Chuter, P Wallace, Johns, Grewcock, Sturnham, Pienaar (Bennett, 33), Diprose (capt).

Newcastle: Lagg; Naylor, Wilkinson, Tait, Underwood; Andrew, Armstrong; Popplewell, Nesdale, Van Zandvliet, Archer, Weir, Lam, Arnold, Ryan (capt).

Referee: S Piercey (Yorkshire).

All Saints Premiership

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Newcastle	17	15	0	2	494	306	30
Saracens	18	15	0	3	474	319	30
Bath	17	11	0	6	475	370	22
Leicester	17	10	1	6	447	354	21
Gloucester	19	9	1	9	435	454	19
Richmond	19	9	1	10	483	420	18
Sale	18	8	2	8	499	449	18
Northampton	16	7	1	8	368	311	15
Harlequins	18	7	0	11	430	492	14
Wasps	17	5	1	11	378	482	11
London Irish	17	5	0	12	337	522	10
Bristol	19	2	0	17	289	630	4

NEWCASTLE: April 22: Wasps (away); April 26: Bristol (home); May 4: Leicester (home); May 11: Bath (home); May 17: Harlequins (away).

SARACENS: April 25: Leicester (away); April 29: Harlequins (away); May 3: London Irish (home); May 14: Northampton (home).

Titles
Newcastle: None. Saracens: None

Eubank stays in hospital for a second night

John Rawling

CHRIS EUBANK has spent a second night in a Manchester hospital recovering from his savage but unsuccessful challenge for Carl Thompson's World Boxing Organisation cruiserweight title on Saturday night.

The battered features of the 31-year-old Lord of Brighton told their own story; of stepping up two weight divisions for his championship opportunity.

He had been dragged into certainly the toughest fight of his 13-year professional career.

Eubank, who had a brain scan which revealed no damage, received treatment for the severely bruised and swollen tissue around his left eye which left him with impaired vision for more than half the fight.

The Royal Infirmary, inundated by calls from well-wishers, issued a news release at 6pm last night saying Eubank had completed his medical tests and left.

According to close friends, however, the truth was he wanted to be left in peace to rest his aching body and remained in his hospital bed.

On Saturday Eubank proved that he is one of boxing's true fighters, even if he failed in his attempt to lift the title. Thompson said simply: "Chris Eubank is one tough cookie."

A friend of Eubank added: "Chris is down in the dumps and his pride is hurting. He really believes he did enough to win the fight. I don't know if he thought this was his last throw of the dice but to pull off what he did and still come second was tough."

Eubank floored Thompson in the fourth round but repeatedly backed off when he had the champion in trouble, allowing him precious seconds to regain his composure and survive for a narrow points-win.

It has been a familiar Eubank trait since he left Michael Watson with devastating brain injuries after their second meeting in September 1991.

Inevitably people are now calling for Eubank to retire. His promoter Frank Warren said: "We all know he has had some problems financially but Eubank is a very sensible person. He knows how tough it is. Can he get up and do that again? Only he can answer."

Computer gives Kent the victory

KENT won their first Sunday League fixture of the season by .71 of a run after a computer count-back on run rates against Middlesex at Canterbury.

Chasing 207, the home side had reached 115 for three from 26 overs before rain and bad light forced the players off.

Umpires John Harris and Ray Julians checked with the scorers, Kent's Jack Foley and Middlesex counterpart Mike Smith before confirming Kent's victory.

However, Middlesex's captain Mark Ramprakash, who had seen his side beaten by 0.71 of a run, thought the adjustment method indicated a tie and said: "I am very angry about this and I don't want to make any comment."

At Headingley, a half-century by Michael Vaughan and vibrant left-arm seam bowling by the youngster Ryan Sidebottom helped Yorkshire beat Somerset.

Northamptonshire's openers finally walked out to bat this afternoon after a rare burst of sunshine at The Oval, but the rain returned as the Northants innings was reaching its climax and the match was abandoned at 6pm with each side taking two points.

Damp weather took its toll on Sunday League matches elsewhere. Sodden pitches remained unpierced by stumps at Edgbaston (Warwickshire v Durham), New Road (Worcestershire v Essex) and Bristol (Gloucestershire v Glamorgan).

South Africa eliminated Sri Lanka from the limited-overs series with a five-wicket victory at Bloemfontein yesterday. The home side will meet Pakistan in the final in Cape Town on Wednesday.

On a pitch that helped the South African fast bowlers, Sri Lanka were bowled out for 105 in 36 overs after being sent in to bat. That score was overtaken with 23.3 overs to spare.

Although South Africa lost five wickets before getting the required runs, the result was never in doubt, with Sri Lanka having only two seam bowlers to take advantage of conditions.

Sunday best . . . Jason Pooley, Middlesex's top scorer, hits Kent's Mark Ealham for six at Canterbury yesterday ADY KERRY

Marathon

Loroupe cuts world record

Duncan Mackay in Rotterdam

TEGLA LOROUPE fulfilled Ingrid Kristiansen's prophecy yesterday when she reduced the women's world marathon record to 2hr 20min 47sec. Running in perfect conditions around this flat Dutch port the 26-year-old Kenyan, barely 5ft tall, sliced 19 seconds off the 2.21.06 mark set by the great Norwegian in London 13 years ago.

"In 1996, when I met Ingrid in New York, she told me that one day I would break her record," Loroupe said.

It will now be up to Catherina McKiernan to restore London's status as a world record course when she runs in the capital on Sunday. But, as the women race the 26.2 miles alone, the Irish runner will not enjoy the benefits Loroupe enjoyed here.

Paced throughout by two male team-mates, Bernard Boiyo and Jacob Losian, she was on sub-2.20 pace for much of the race. At halfway she fell below the average speed required to break Kristiansen's record but she rallied magnificently in the final six miles to beat her nearest rival, Japan's Junko Asari, by more than a mile. It is doubtful whether Loroupe, a marathon runner for four years, could have done this without her colleagues' help, but she disagrees.

"I had them to block the wind because I'm so tiny," she said. "But I had trained hard and think I would have broken the record if I had run alone."

Tegla Loroupe beat the womens' world marathon record

Certainly she was full of energy at the end, jumping for joy at claiming the $150,000 (£90,000) world record bonus.

After 24 miles of the men's event Fabian Roncero of Spain was poised to obliterate Belayneh Dinsamo's 10-year-old world record of 2.06.50. Then he hit "the wall", the pain barrier every marathon runner dreads, and was briefly reduced to a walk.

In the circumstances his recovery to win in a Spanish record of 2.07.26 was a great performance. However, it may last only until the world champion Abel Anton runs in London.

● Back strains have forced Elana Meyer out of today's Boston Marathon. Meyer's withdrawal leaves her fellow South African Colleen De Reuck, third last year, as favourite to challenge the defending champion Fatuma Roba of Ethiopia.

هكذا من الاصل